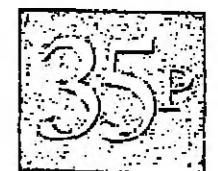


# THE TIMES



No. 65,919

WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

**WIN FREE  
TICKETS  
FOR THE  
LORD'S TEST**

Premium  
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**WHAT'S WRONG  
WITH THE  
SUMMER PRIZE?**  
Rachel Campbell-Johnston  
slays a pickled cow

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**HI-TECH  
TENNIS**

The secrets  
behind  
wired-up  
Wimbledon

FREE SUPPLEMENT



**THE  
SHAPE  
OF '97**

Four of the best  
flat-fronted  
trousers  
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Clarke pips Hague in second vote

## Tory rivals head for photo-finish

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

KENNETH CLARKE was the surprise victor in the second round of the Tory leadership contest last night, opening the way to a nailbiting final run-off against William Hague tomorrow.

The Shadow Chancellor polled 64 votes, two more than Mr Hague, while John Redwood was eliminated in spite of increasing his vote to 38.

A jubilant Mr Clarke was suddenly back in the race that some of his supporters believed he was almost certain to lose. And Mr Redwood was left as possible kingmaker, with many of his supporters waiting for a lead from him on how they should vote in the last round. He will decide today who he will vote for.

Last night he met both Mr Clarke and Mr Hague, and the intriguing prospect of Mr Clarke offering him the post of Shadow Chancellor in a previously unthinkable Left-Right "dream ticket" was being seriously floated by supporters of both men. The Clarke camp claimed that at least ten previous Redwood backers, including Teresa Gorman, had indicated that they would come over to him. Others are expected to abstain.

Peter Lilley, who switched to Mr Hague after the first round, is believed to be in line to be Shadow Chancellor if Mr Hague wins.

Mr Hague had been widely expected to finish in front of Mr Clarke in the second round, but his bandwagon appeared to have slowed after his suggestion at a meeting of Tory MPs on Monday night that Mr Clarke would have to agree to rule out joining a single currency for ten years if he was to serve in his Shadow Cabinet. Some rightwingers said that made it impossible for Mr Clarke to serve in the Shadow Cabinet and that the party could not afford to have him outside it.



Clarke promising a "broad-based team"

**How Tory MPs voted**

Kenneth CLARKE	64
William HAGUE	62
John REDWOOD	38

Mr Hague nevertheless remained the favourite to achieve a narrow victory over Mr Clarke after what Mr Redwood predicted would be a grueling third round.

Within minutes of yesterday's result, Mr Redwood announced that both Mr Clarke and Mr Hague had already telephoned him. He said: "Kenneth Clarke got in first. I suppose you could say that Kenneth Clarke was a little bit better organised than William Hague, which might be a reason to vote for him. I haven't yet made up my mind; there is now a very difficult decision to make."

Mr Hague also proclaimed himself well satisfied with the outcome of the second ballot. "I think I now have the momentum and support to win the ballot on Thursday. That is what I will set out to do," he said. "And then I will set about the task of leading this party and uniting the party including all strands of opinion within it."

Peter Riddell, page 2  
Leading article, page 19

### Oxford votes for business school

Oxford does accepted plans for a business school and a £20 million donation from the Syrian-born benefactor Wafic Said. The 342 to 55 majority in Congregation came four days before Mr Said's deadline for withdrawing his offer if agreement could not be reached.

### Heavy hitters

Greg Rusedski, the British No 2, will meet the Australian Mark Philippoussis, the fastest server in the world, in the first round of Wimbledon, which begins on Monday.

Downing Street sources emphasised last night that the decision was too close to call: "It is in the balance. The overriding question is whether it is going to work."

Nigella Lawson, page 17  
Letters, page 19

Daniel Nestor of Canada ..... Page 48

### Millennium festival on verge of collapse

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The Millennium Exhibition in Greenwich is in danger of collapse as concern grows over the financial viability of the scheme.

Tony Blair and a small Cabinet group will meet tomorrow to decide whether to allow construction work to start on the centrepiece of the exhibition: a £20 million dome designed by the architect Sir

25

Richard Rogers. The Prime Minister and his colleagues will discuss a £500 million plan submitted by Millennium Central, which is responsible for fleshing out a blueprint for the grand scheme by the Millennium Commission.

Downing Street sources emphasised last night that the decision was too close to call: "It is in the balance. The overriding question is whether it is going to work."

Ruth Hattersley, widow of David Hattersley, the headmaster who was killed last year after a firework exploded in his face during a school display.

A Whitehall source said last night: "Ministers are also interested in banning small bangers. They frighten the elderly, are frequently thrown at pets by unruly youths and are not used in public displays. But they may need to consult more widely on this and they could be around for another year."

Mr Griffiths is to be joined tomorrow for the launch of the proposals by Ruth Hattersley, widow of David Hattersley, the headmaster who was killed last year after a firework exploded in his face during a school display.

Mr Griffiths is to hold a three-month consultation with firework manufacturers and retailers. The regulations will be enforced by trading standards officers who will bring prosecutions against shops that break the law.

Ministers also hope to introduce

mount organised displays to continue to use the large fireworks, provided the organisers have appropriate safety

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Ministers also hope to introduce

much tighter checks on the import of fireworks to keep out those that contravene British safety laws.

Mr Griffiths wants to reduce the number of injuries caused by fireworks. In December aerial shells and maroons were banned after three deaths last year.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents reported a total of 428 accidents at family or private firework parties last year compared with 263 five years ago.

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## Scottish play occupies centre stage as Tory party tragedy unfolds

**A**s the Tory Party bleeds, there has been an atmosphere at Westminster this week not unlike that surrounding a bad motorway smash. Outside Committee Room 14 yesterday, media folk and bystanders stood and gawped. Within, the Conservative Party lay wounded.

The predominant feelings were pain and doubt. MPs whispered in knots or slipped in and out to know the latest and to vote.

Passers-by hung ghoulishly around, speculating and mut-

tering. When the door briefly opened we tried to peer in.

Downstairs in the Chamber the scene served as a metaphor for the agonies which will face the Tories' new Leader. Yesterday was Scottish Questions. There were no Scottish Tories.

It is not just that the Party no longer represent Scotland and Wales; they no longer represent cities, either. Labour MP Norman Godman (Glasgow & Inverclyde) described the Principal Opposition as "a rural English Party."

"Rural and suburban"

would be fairer. Among the Tories I recognised the Members for Sevenoaks, Cotswold, Chipping Barnet, Maldon & Chelmsford E, North Essex, West Derbyshire, Staffordshire S, Surrey SW, Horsham, Skipton & Ripon, Bromley & Chislehurst, Worthing West, Louth & Hornsea, Devizes ... the list could be an extract from the *Property* pages of *Country Life*.

But Tories were determined to fly the flag. Putting in "prayer cards" to reserve seats, they foiled an attempt by the minority parties to

occupy the Front Bench and Dispatch Box.

Donald Dewar, Labour's new Scottish Secretary (he called the Scots Liberal Democrats' Leader, Jim Wallace, "my Hou Friend" — an interesting slip), shared Mr Wallace's amusement at the Tory plight.

Prayer cards? "They're going to need the power of

prayer," said Dewar, "some of them are on their knees at the moment." Everyone laughed.

The most indignant opposition was provided by the Scottish National Party, their bright-eyed Leader, Alex Salmond, scathing about an Amsterdam deal for Scottish fishermen.

The Liberal Democrats, compromised by their associ-

ation with Labour, fall awkwardly between two stools: are they really challenging the Government, or just asking helpful supplementaries?

The Tories' predicament was odd. From their front and back benches came sharp questions which had Mr Dewar's unimpressive ministerial team flailing.

Bernard Jenkin (Essex N) tripped junior minister Sam Galbraith with an enquiry about unannounced health spending plans for Scotland.

"They're well laid out, well laid out," stammered Gal-

braith. Alan Clark (C, Kensington & Chelsea) relayed a astonishing claim that a Hyundai investment attracted to Scotland was costing the taxpayer £120,000 per job created. Dewar seemed ill at ease, tried to laugh it off, and failed.

**F**rancis Maude (Horsham) winded Malcolm Chisholm with a question about corruption in Glasgow Govan. Sir Peter Tapsell (Louth & Hornsea) heard no reply to an enquiry about extra spend-

ing in Scotland, and nor did Ann Winterton (Congleton).

Her husband, Nicholas Stamped minister Henry McLeish when he asked why 72,000 Macclesfield electors get just one MP — himself — when only 55,000 elect the average Scottish Member.

In *Hansard* the Tory assault will read convincingly. The reality was different. Ministers strung at Tory questions, give bad answers, but do not care if they are bested. The Tory party lacks not arguments but self-respect.

ALAN WELLER



William Hague and his supporters Michael Howard, Gillian Shephard and Peter Lilley; and their rivals, Kenneth Clarke, with his supporters, including Stephen Dorrell, Sir Norman Fowler and Michael Heseltine

## Redwood's 'barmy army' may have last laugh in leadership contest

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tory MPs long mocked by their enemies in the party as John Redwood's "barmy army" today held the key to the leadership contest.

At least half of the 38 MPs who voted for John Redwood in yesterday's second ballot of the contest will, in tomorrow's final round, follow his example and back the candidate he anoints. Mr Redwood, while mocked by many MPs as an unelectable extremist, has earned almost fanatical loyalty from some of his supporters.

After the first ballot, Michael Howard and Peter Lilley, who withdrew from the contest, were unable to march large contingents of their own supporters into Mr Hague's camp. But Mr Redwood can deliver his men and women in round three.

Many Redwood supporters are enraged by the Howard

and Lilley deal to bolster Mr Hague in the second ballot. The move could yet damage Mr Hague in the horseracing before the final ballot.

For years Kenneth Clarke has been a hate figure of the Eurosceptics, and they now blame the Tories' election defeat on his refusal to oppose British membership of a single European currency.

But many had already decided last night to dismiss worries over Europe and back him because he is a heavy-hitter with long experience at the top.

Relations between the Redwood and the Hague campaign headquarters are dire. Mr Hague's friends believe that Mr Redwood's team were behind a spate of unsubstantiated rumours that the media were about to run exposés on his private life. It is a further bar to successful negotiations



Redwood: could hold key to final round

between the two men.

Even before the first round of voting, many people in the Redwood campaign had described Mr Hague as the real danger. They branded him as untried, untested, and not a genuine rightwinger. Mr Clarke may be on the Left but many Redwood supporters regard him as principled and a

strong leader. The word went up early on from the Redwood campaign headquarters last night: we have to stop Hague.

On cue, Teresa Gorman, the MP for Billericay who had the whip withdrawn because of her opposition to Maastricht, was one of the first to switch to Mr Clarke.

"We need a big hitter," she said. "John Redwood and Ken Clarke were the only big hitters on offer today. It's why I will back Clarke."

One of the few publicly to declare for Mr Hague was John Whittingdale, the former political secretary to Baroness Thatcher, who said: "I supported John Redwood because I agreed with his views. It is clear to me William Hague is closest to those views."

Gerald Howarth, another MP close to Lady Thatcher, was expected to support Mr Hague.

Richard Body, the MP for Boston and Skegness who resigned the whip in protest at

the Maastricht treaty, has also decided to back Mr Clarke. Andrew Robathan, who succeeded Nigel Lawson as the MP for Blaby, and is of the same generation as Mr Hague, may also vote for Mr Clarke.

Redwood loyalists such as Julian Lewis, Owen Paterson, Oliver Letwin, John Wilkinson, and David Wilshire were also waiting to take their lead from Mr Redwood. Mr Lewis said: "I will wait and decide when John has made his mind up. Another key influence will be Iain Duncan Smith. Mr Redwood's highly respected campaign manager, who is an arch-Eurosceptic.

Mr Duncan Smith will make up his own mind independently of Mr Redwood but he has a strong following. He said: "John is in a powerful position. He has run an honourable campaign. Despite all the vilification of John Redwood as an extremist, he has

now emerged as the unity candidate. Both sides need him because he is the man who can unite the party."

James Cran, who switched from Mr Howard to Mr Redwood, said: "It is a classic dilemma. One candidate has the right agenda but I am not sure he is a heavyhitter and the other one is a heavyhitter but has the wrong agenda."

John Townend, the chairman of the 92 group of rightwing MPs, said: "The centre right will back William Hague."

Angela Browning, who was one of the Redwood campaign managers, refused to say who she would support. "Do not make assumptions about how the core group which backed John Redwood will vote," she said. However, she described Mr Hague as a "nice young man" and Mr Clarke as a formidable politician.

Leading article, page 19

## How Tories lined up behind leadership contenders

TORY MPs are believed to have voted as follows in the second round of the leadership election:

□ For Kenneth Clarke:

Tony Baldry, Sir Paul Berrington, Virginia Bottomley, John Butterill, Kenneth Clarke, David Currie, Quentin Davies, Stephen Dorrell, Sir Peter Emerick, Sir Norman Fowler, Alastair Goodlad, Dameon Green, John Gummer, John Gummer, Douglas Hoyle, Michael Howard, Sir Alan Hesther, Alan Haselhurst, Tim King, Michael Jack, Robert Jackson, Sir Peter Lloyd, Peter Luff, Sir David Madel, John MacGregor, Michael Mates, Anne McIntosh, Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, Richard Ottaway, Andrew Rowan, Keith Simpson, Nicholas Soames, Sir John Stanley, Ian Taylor, Peter Temple-Morris,

Bob Walter, Sir Ray Whitney, Shaun Woodward, Sir George Young.  
Former Howard supporters: David Davis, Andrew Lansley, John M Taylor.  
Former Lilley supporters: Sir Patrick Cormack, Ann Widdecombe.  
Former Redwood supporters: Michael Fabricant.  
And whose previous support is unknown: Caroline Spelman, Peter Viggers, Eric Pickles, Edward Garnier, Tim Bellwell, Peter Atkinson. Total 51. Unknown supporters in second round: 13.

□ For William Hague:

Peter Atherton, Michael Ancram, James Arbuthnott, David Attwooll, Peter Bottomley, Ian Bruce, James Clappison, Michael

Clark, Geoffroy Clifton-Brown, Stephen Day, Alan Duncan, Nigel Evans, Cheryl Gill, Roger Gale, James Gray, Dominic Grieve, David Heathcoat-Amory, William Hague, Nick Hawkins, Julie Kirkbride, Eleanor Laing, Sir Nicholas Lyall, Tim Loughton, Andrew Mackay, John Maples, Humfrey Melville, Malcolm Moore, Arch Neary, John Penrose, Roger Penruddock Prior, David Ruffley, Jonathan Soysad, Sir Peter Tapsell, Tim Yeo.

Former Howard supporters: Simon Burns, Graham Brady, David Lidington, Francis Maudie, Tim Collins, Liam Fox, David Maclean, Michael Howard, Oliver Heald, Patrick McLoughlin, Sir Michael Colvin, Fiona Mactaggart, Sir Gillian Shephard, David Willets, Philip Hammond, Nicholas

Nicholls, Sir Richard Body, Desmond Swaine, Christopher Chope, Gerald Howarth, Andrew Tyrie, Peter Lilley. Former Lilley supporters: John Whittingdale, Eric Forth, David Amess, Peter Merchant, John Barrow. Total 62.

□ For John Redwood:

Julian Brazier, Angela Browning, Bill Cash, Ian Duncan Smith, Howard Flight, Christopher Goss, John Hayes, John Hayes, Owen Paterson, John Redwood, Laurence Robertson, Marion Ross, Andrew Robathan, Richard Shepherd, Sir Teddy Taylor, John Townend, Charles Wards, David Wilshire, John Wilkinson, Nicholas Winterton.

Former Redwood supporters: Sir Michael Spicer, James Cran, Edward Leigh, Patrick

Spicer, Gerald Howarth, John Major, Sir Sydney Chapman, Gary Streeter, Michael Lord, Anthony Steer, Former Howard supporters: David Faber, Sir Archibald Hamilton, Christopher Fraser, Former Lilley supporters: Nigel Watson, Bernard Jenkins, Nicholas Watson, Brian Winterton.

Total 12. (All assumed to be Clarke supporters).

## Can new leader unite and rule?

WHOEVER wins the Con-

servative leadership tomorrow, it will be less a coronation than the end of an elimination contest — a bruising game of musical chairs, played to the funeral march. William Hague is still just the favourite, though less so than 24 hours ago, and he has a lot to do over the next 48 hours.

Kenneth Clarke has the initiative.

John Major, the chair-

man of the 92 group of right-

wing MPs, has been ahead on both rounds so far and he retains a sizeable lead among local Tories.

The second round was about as messy as it could be. It both underlined the extent of the divisions in the party, and showed the mistake of believing that it was simply a Left v Right battle.

This will be the first time in the six leadership elections since 1965 that the contest has gone into a third ballot. And there will be a feverish period of manoeuvring, lobbying and rumours of deals. There was talk in the Redwood camp last night of how to stop Mr Hague, and in the Clarke camp of Mr Redwood's "valuable" ideas. Quite a number on the right will back Mr Clarke, because they admire his fighting qualities and believe Mr Hague will not be a strong leader.

Whatever deals are done and however the Redwood vote split up, the result is likely to hinge on a dozen votes out of 164. That would hardly be an overwhelming mandate. But Tory leaders have generally won their position by a small margin — and never on the scale of landslide enjoyed by Neil Kinnock, John Smith and Tony Blair.

Sir Edward Heath won 49.3 per cent of the vote on the first ballot in 1965, but this was so near an overall majority that Reginald

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Maudling (43.8 per cent) and Enoch Powell (4.9) dropped out.

In 1975, Margaret Thatcher forced out Sir Edward on the first ballot and then won 52.9 per cent on the second ballot against four others. In 1990, John Major won 49.7 per cent, prompting Michael Heseltine, on 35.2 and Douglas Hurd on 15.1 per cent to stand down.

On Thursday night, there

will be the usual appeals for unity. But they will be unconvincing unless the new leader can ensure that both pro-Europeans and sceptics serve on his frontbench team. That is how Mr Clarke is trying to trump Mr Hague, who has appeared a divisive rather than a unifying figure.

It is hardly the best prelude for a new leader. To paraphrase Norman Lamont, the new leader may be in office, but will he be in power?

PETER RIDDELL

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## Councils to get £5bn for housing

By POLLY NEWTON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

LOCAL authorities will be allowed to spend billions of pounds on housing over the next five years, taking public expenditure above the Conservative-set limit that Labour promised to adopt in Government.

Up to 220,000 homes will be built or refurbished and as many as 65,000 jobs created under the policy, which was unveiled yesterday by Hilary

Armstrong, Housing Minister.

The Government will effectively release, in phases, the estimated £5 billion made by local authorities from the sale of council houses since 1990. Under the Conservatives, councils were prevented from spending the money although they could use it for accounting purposes to offset their debts.

The Local Government Finance (Supplementary Credit Approvals) Bill will allow ministers to increase annual borrowing limits for those councils that have "set aside" housing site receipts.

In addition, the Government will make allowances for the level of housing need in particular local authority areas, so that councils with poor receipts but a significant shortage of homes will also be given permission for additional borrowing.

The details have yet to be finalised and will be the subject of a consultation document to be issued shortly. However, the amount of additional borrowing

money which councils will be allowed to spend on housing and related projects in 1997-98 and 1998-99 will be announced by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, in the Budget on July 2.

The Chartered Institute of Housing estimated that for every £1 billion released, 14,000 new homes could be built and 30,000 properties improved. The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors said such investment could create up to 13,000 new jobs.

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# Guide who cut corners killed friend, court told

BY ADRIAN LEE

A PROFESSIONAL mountain guide skimped on safety during an expedition in the French Alps, causing his inexperienced companion to fall 120ft to his death, a court was told yesterday.

David Cuthbertson wrongly abandoned accepted climbing procedure as he and Gerry Hedley edged towards the summit of Tour Ronde, a 12,000ft peak in the Mont Blanc Massif, it was alleged.

Mr Hedley's son, Daniel, 6, who was born nine months after the tragedy, is claiming £100,000 damages in an action which could have serious implications for outdoor pursuits. It is the first time a guide has been sued over a climbing death.

Mr Hedley's wife, Lynda Woodroffe, 48, of Kilburn, north London, who initiated the claim, had been due to join

her husband on the climbing holiday the day after his death, when she planned to tell him that she was pregnant.

It was alleged that Mr Cuthbertson, 49, from Dornie, Inverness, failed to provide a strong enough anchor — or belay — on the ice face for his less-experienced companion. He used only one bin ice screw when standard climbing practice demanded two.

The High Court was told that the two men were friends. Mr Hedley, 41, an art restorer for the Courtauld Institute who also lectured at the University of London, and his wife of six years had attended Mr Cuthbertson's wedding party a few months earlier.

Mr Hedley had paid the guide £500 for the seven-day walking and climbing holiday and had completed a few

ascents without incident. On July 21 they spent the night in a hut after a 1½-hour climb from the base of the mountain and then set out to scale a 350m section of ice and rock at 4,000 metres. The two climbers were roped together with Mr Cuthbertson in the lead, when the ice gave way and the guide fell, dragging Mr Hedley off his anchor onto rocks below in an area known as the Narrows.

The guide, who fractured his knee, described yesterday how he became worried during the ascent as sunshine threatened to melt snow directly above them and dislodge rocks.

He decided to abandon the two screw procedure to save time and allow them to move quickly across the mountain face to the safety of overhanging rock, 120ft away. Inserting and removing the extra screw would have taken another two minutes. "I chose to get out of the line of fire as quickly as possible."

His voice breaking with emotion, Mr Cuthbertson, who denies negligence, said: "Gerry Hedley was my friend. I regret the incident but I still think I took the right action to get us both out of the way."

Mr Cuthbertson said he thought the state of the ice was good and the risk of himself falling on the relatively easy terrain was slight. At the time, just before 8am, the pair were some 600ft from the summit but Mr Hedley was tiring and had slowed the climb which had begun at 4.30am in darkness.

Kieran Coonan, QC, for the plaintiff, said: "You compromised your safety and gambled with the life of Mr Hedley. That is what boils down to isn't it?" But Mr Cuthbertson denied he had acted in a lazy or careless way.



I think it is the opposite. I took a deliberate decision not to waste time." He feared being struck by a falling rock and killed. He agreed that he was aware that if he fell the implications for his companion were potentially disastrous.

Mr Coonan said that the fall was caused by an ice slide, known as "dinner plating". At

the time Mr Cuthbertson was edging across the mountain, 80ft above his friend, using his ice axe and crampon when suddenly, without any warning, all the ice beneath him gave way — a large area — and slid down the mountain. Despite Mr Cuthbertson's best efforts he could not gain any purchase on the side of the mountain. The full force of Mr

Cuthbertson's body weight and the shock force was transmitted probably directly to the anchor and then to Mr Hedley. The anchor was yanked out and Mr Hedley was swept down the mountain. He was killed instantly.

Mr Cuthbertson said: "It was the honest I had ever known it even though it was only 8.30 in the morning. I

The trial continues.

The letters stated that the First National Bank of Boston was prepared to make available any shortfall in cash flow requirements. "In other words you can have as much money as you need," Mr Latham said. The bank was never told about the letters.

The letters were of great help to the company and British Bus emerged as a very attractive entity indeed, Mr Latham said. In mid-1994 two companies specialising in venture capital made the offer for British Bus shares, making its directors millionaires overnight. The trial continues.

## Bus firm's sale 'aided by corrupt official'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A CORRUPT bank official was rewarded with a £1 million bribe from the windfall profits earned when the privatised British Bus Company was sold, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Ian Harvey, a senior account manager with the First National Bank of Boston, has spent every penny of the £600,000 he received on account, said Richard Latham, QC, for the prosecution. Most of it went on the purchase of a £400,000 home.

The man who bribed Mr Harvey was Dawson Williams, then a director of British Bus, who received £9.4 million for his shares in the company. Mr Latham said.

Mr Williams, of Ringwood, Hampshire, and Mr Harvey, of Little Hambledon, Herfordshire, both deny conspiracy to corrupt between January 1992 and August 1994. Mr Harvey alone denies corruption relating to the £600,000.

Mr Harvey said that three other directors of British Bus also became overnight millionaires but that there was nothing illegal in their gains.

He explained that from 1993 Mr Harvey helped Mr Williams and the British Bus company by issuing letters to the company auditors which effectively gave the company a "clean bill of health".

The letters stated that the First National Bank of Boston was prepared to make available any shortfall in cash flow requirements. "In other words you can have as much money as you need," Mr Latham said. The bank was never told about the letters.

The letters were of great help to the company and British Bus emerged as a very attractive entity indeed, Mr Latham said. In mid-1994 two companies specialising in venture capital made the offer for British Bus shares, making its directors millionaires overnight. The trial continues.

## Woman killed her four-year-old son by salt poisoning

BY RICHARD DUKE

FOUR doctors failed to detect that a four-year-old boy was slowly being poisoned by his mother who faced his drinks with lethal levels of salt, a court was told yesterday.

Caroline Lloyd had a severe personality disorder, similar to that of the convicted murderer Beverly Allitt, when over ten days she deliberately added high doses of salt to the fizzy drinks which eventually killed her son Christopher. She even prevented him from drinking fresh water, the court was told.

Lloyd, 26, was yesterday jailed for life after she admitted manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility.

She suffers from Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy and her condition is so severe that psychiatrists decided it could not be treated in hospital.

While Lloyd's husband was at work, Christopher is thought to have been dosed in total with 125 grammes of salt which made him suffer vomiting, diarrhoea, and stomach cramps. Christopher Horton, QC, for the prosecution, told Oxford Crown Court.

Stuart Lloyd, Christopher's stepfather, became worried about the boy's health, and took him to four different GPs during the following week. None of them diagnosed the problem, and the boy was prescribed mild sedatives, and even antibiotics.

On one occasion, a day after the poisoning started in February last year, Christopher was taken to New Cross Hospital close to the family home in Wolverhampton, but discharged the next day after his system was flushed out. Mr Horton said: "Sadly, no blood test was taken whilst he was an in-patient. If it had been,

he would undoubtedly have shown a high level of salt."

Eventually, he was taken back to hospital nine days later, after collapsing at home. He died the next day without regaining consciousness.

Mr Horton said: "Salt poisoning is far from unknown but the age of the child in this case is unusual." Salt levels in Christopher's blood were 50 per cent above what is thought to be a safe level.

In interviews with police Lloyd said: "I never wanted him to die. I just wanted him to feel poorly. It was the only way I could cope. The salt made him sleep so that I could get some rest."

The court was told that Lloyd had had a difficult childhood and was placed in care from the age of 12. William Andreo-Jones, QC, for the defence, said: that she was "consumed by remorse".

Mr Justice Porte told her: "You continue to pose a substantial risk to children. Nothing I have heard guarantees that this risk can be avoided. You will not be released while you remain a danger."



Lloyd: has a severe personality disorder

## Boy, 14, is locked up for killing 82-year-old

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged 14 who murdered his friend's great-grandmother while drunk was detained without limit of time yesterday. David Millar killed Lucy Marshall, 82, with a single stab wound from her own breadknife.

Millar, of Cowdenbeath, Fife, pleaded guilty to the murder. The Crown accepted that an original charge of raping the woman be deleted, and a plea of not guilty to assaulting Mrs Marshall's home help and attempting to prevent her speaking to police, was also accepted.

The case was dealt with in minutes by Lord Cameron of Lochroom in the High Court in Edinburgh, unbeknown to the victim's family, who had turned up to see the killer sentenced. Mrs Marshall's daughters Isobel Campbell and Velma Ward said they were angry they had not been able to see the killer.

Mrs Ward said: "We are still in the dark about how and why my mother died. A lot of what we heard is just rumour. We were hoping to hear everything in court, but now we won't. It's heartbreaking not knowing what happened to my mum. We will have to go to our graves not knowing exactly what happened to her or why he killed her."

Millar had told police after killing Mrs Marshall, also from Cowdenbeath, that he had been drinking Buckfast, the tonic wine brewed by the Benedictine monks of Buckfast Abbey in Devon. The drink has been blamed for encouraging teenage alcoholism.

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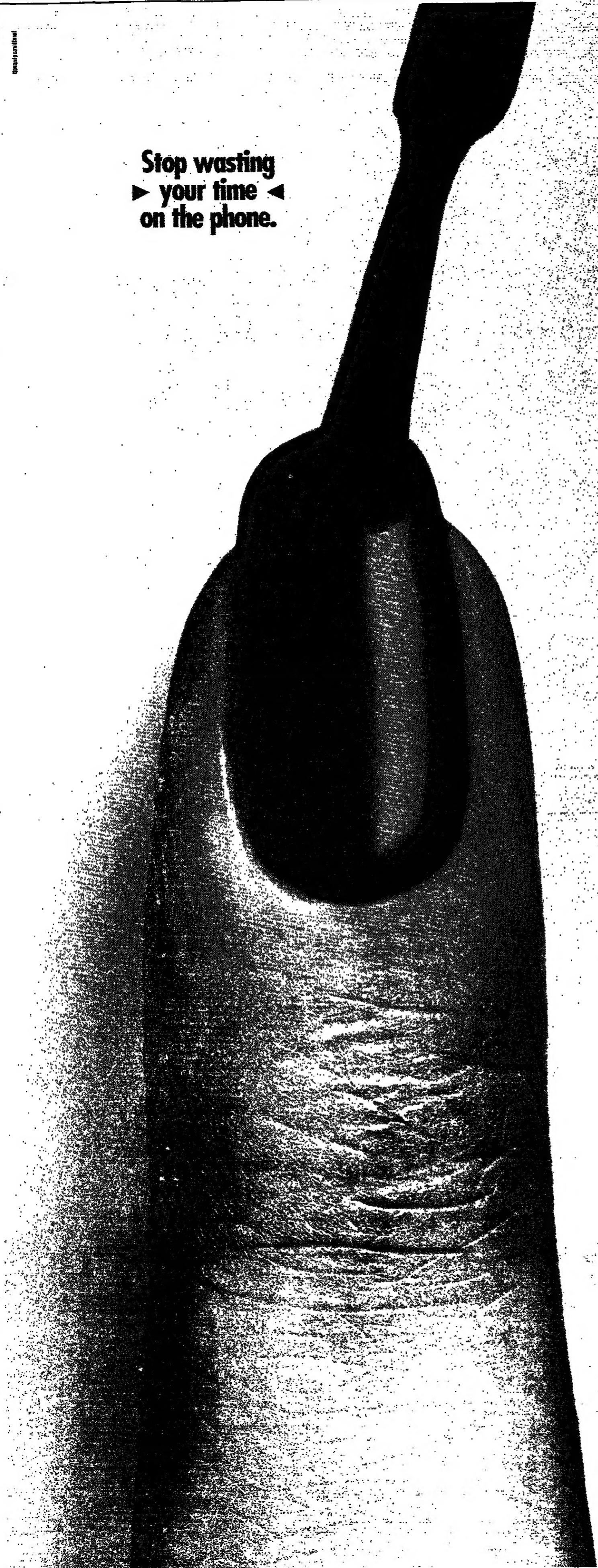
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ALCATEL

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Works by this year's four Turner Prize finalists include: Gillian Wearing's *Signs* (1992-93), Angela Bulloch's *Workbench* (1996), Christine Borland's *Bison-Bison* (1997), and Cornelia Parker's *Shirt burnt by a meteorite*

## All-women shortlist takes Turner by surprise

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE judges for the £20,000 Turner Prize this year have again come up with shortlist of artists who specialise in mind-boggling creations. The difference this time is that the four finalists, all conceptual artists, are women. Last year they were men.

After Damien Hirst's dead animals in formaldehyde and Vong Phaphumi's room filled with rice, the prize is no stranger to controversy.

Cornelia Parker has exhibited a man's white shirt on a coat-hanger and dangled bits of silver cutlery from the White Cliffs of Dover. Christine Borland's works include a human skeleton. Gillian Wearing's most recent work, called *10-16*, was a video of adult actors lip-synching to a soundtrack of adolescents. A dwarf in a bath was shown

saying he would like to kill his mother. The fourth finalist is Angela Bulloch, who once invited the public to sit on a bench and watch brown liquid flow through a tube.

Critics of the prize immediately poured scorn on the selection. Some attacked the jurors for being politically correct in choosing women after last year's all-male shortlist. Others lamented the exclusion of painters or sculptors who make things themselves. A number felt that they had seen it all before: barriers were broken long ago by Marcel Duchamp's urinal of 1917 and Joseph Beuys's man's felt suit of 1970.

Danny Katz, a dealer in Old Master sculpture and a collector of contemporary art, was angry. "I hate it," he said. Devising a conceptual work of his

own, he recommended that some artist lay down a canvas on a pavement and dive into it from a multi-storey building. "He could call it 'self-portrait' and put an end to it. One less artist to think about. One less artist to stop creating this absolute rubbish."

Philomena Davidson-Davies, of the Royal Society of Sculptors, said: "Is this really a true reflection of the talent out there?" She dismissed artists who took a ready-made object and "plopped it down to represent a notional idea".

David Lee, editor of *Art Review*, said: "It's the usual freak show." He criticised the Tate for promoting a "state academy" of such artists. One observer asked: "Are there no boundaries?" She dismissed artists who took a ready-made object and "plopped it down to represent a notional idea".

Tate for promoting a "state academy" of such artists. One observer asked: "Are there no boundaries?" She dismissed artists who took a ready-made object and "plopped it down to represent a notional idea".

For the judges, Gillian Wearing's work reveals the "strange or disturbing realities that lie beneath the apparently calm surface of everyday appearances". Christine Borland's work with bones

was described as "notably imaginative and original, with results which are sometimes shocking and always haunting in effect."

Angela Bulloch uses a wide range of media, including mechanical and electronic devices such as floor-mats that activate taped voices as people stand on them. Her work reveals people's incurable urge to control each other, the judges said. She uses sensing devices to feed back the spectator's own actions into the work. The judges spoke of her "symbolic representations of the limited freedoms of the individual in society".

The artist explained: "I like to kill something off symbolically then resurrect it, blowing things up, throwing things off cliffs, having trains and a steamroller run over things."

For

the judges, Gillian Wearing's work reveals the "strange or disturbing realities that lie beneath the apparently calm surface of everyday appearances".

Christine

Borland's work with bones

Sacred cows, page 18



The artists on the shortlist, from left: Gillian Wearing, Angela Bulloch, Christine Borland and Cornelia Parker

### GP uses cell as surgery for violent patient

BY IAN MURRAY

A GP has accepted a patient on to his list providing that consultations take place in a police cell fitted with a panic button. The case highlights growing violence against medical staff, with at least 1,000 GPs assaulted every year.

The issue is to be raised today at the British Medical Association's annual conference for GPs, which is expected to deplore the lack of secure treatment facilities for violent patients.

Christopher Trower, GP medical adviser to Buckinghamshire Health Authority, agreed to see the violent patient in a cell because none of the seven practices in Aylesbury, where the man lived, was prepared to treat him.

Last autumn the patient was jailed for eight months for causing actual bodily harm and damaging a surgery. "For the past three years no practice in the town would have him voluntarily, so he was being revolved between them every week," Dr Trower said. "He would turn up at about five in the evening and storm into the surgery, interrupting consultations. He was usually drunk and violent."

Dr Trower took the man on to his own list. "We have had three appointments so far and they have all passed off peacefully," he said.

A BMA survey last year found that 1,000 patients a year are removed from GPs' lists because of violence.

### Football Association tests nine-year-olds for drugs

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FOOTBALL players as young as nine are being routinely tested by the Football Association for drugs, including cocaine, a national police conference was told yesterday.

The youngsters are screened as part of a programme of random testing for all 2,000 professional players, 1,445 teenage trainees and 10,000 promising junior players attending training schools run by clubs. One of the targets for the tests is 12 to 13-year-olds because recreational drug use is starting at an increasingly young age. Players under 16 are tested only with parental approval and will be counselled about drug use rather than face disciplinary action.

So far the youngest player found to be using drugs was 17. But FA officials were also called in when a 12-year-old in a club training scheme was discovered by police to be using cannabis.

The tests, which began in the 1994-95 season, were

described yesterday by FA officials at a conference on drug problems organised by the Association of Chief Police Officers at Hinckley, Leicestershire. Alan Hodson, head of the programme, said they were intended to deter players, who were often role models for the young.

Mr Hodson said the FA introduced the tests to check for performance-enhancing drugs but officials do not think this is a problem. He said the main concern was recreational drug use. Mr Hodson said in the first season 272 tests were carried out and there were 12 positive results. These included six professional players and six youth players. In the second season the same number of tests were done but there were seven positive results, including four professionals. In the latest season the number of tests increased to 500 and there were five positive tests, including two professional players. Two cocaine

users were banned from playing.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire and the national police spokesman on drugs, told the conference that he did not believe any European country would relax its drug laws in the next decade. George Howard, the Junior Home Office Minister, said the Government would consider neither legalisation nor decriminalisation of any drug.

But Howard Parker, a Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester and an expert on drug research, called for a drugs education programme for the over thirties so that there could be a debate about drug policy without hysteria. He said programmes aimed at stopping the young using drugs cost £280 million a year yet almost half of all 16-year-olds have tried drugs. Britain has the biggest youth drug market in Europe.

The Princess and Mrs Dole, wife of the former Republican presidential candidate, were holding talks before an evening gala at the National Museum of Women in the Arts to raise money for landmine victims.

Although the issue has become something of a *cause célèbre* in America, attracting luminaries such as General Norman Schwarzkopf, the Gulf War commander, the Princess is unlikely to find much support among senior government officials. Neither President Clinton nor Vice-President Al Gore is prepared to oppose military advisers at the Pentagon who believe the mines protect troops.

Peter Vardy, a philosopher and theologian at London University, surveyed 3,000 teenagers across England and Scotland. They were asked to indicate whether they belonged to a religious group.

Asked whether it was morally wrong for an unmarried couple in a long-term relationship to make love, agnostics and atheists took the most liberal view, as expected, with nearly all responding "no".

Most young people, including Catholics, believe there is nothing wrong with artificial birth control, sex before marriage or practising homosexuality, the report says.

The survey of A-level students aged 16-18 will make depressing reading for those in the churches attempting to uphold traditional standards of sexual morality. It suggests that on issues such as contraception and premarital sex, the churches are fighting a losing battle and that a large gulf exists between what they preach and what youngsters practise.

Peter Vardy, a philosopher and theologian at London University, surveyed 3,000 teenagers across England and Scotland. They were asked to

### Princess extends campaign

BY TOM RHODES

DIANA, Princess of Wales, took her new-found diplomatic skills to Washington yesterday where she was joined by Elizabeth Dole, president of the American Red Cross, in her international campaign for a worldwide ban on landmines.

The Princess and Mrs Dole, wife of the former Republican presidential candidate, were holding talks before an evening gala at the National Museum of Women in the Arts to raise money for landmine victims.

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### Religious teenagers take permissive line on sex

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THERE is little difference between the views of young Roman Catholics, Anglicans, atheists and agnostics on issues of sexual morality, according to a report to be published next month.

Most young people, including Catholics, believe there is nothing wrong with artificial birth control, sex before marriage or practising homosexuality, the report says.

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Peter Vardy, a philosopher and theologian at London University, surveyed 3,000 teenagers across England and Scotland. They were asked to

atheists surveyed thought there were circumstances that could make adultery morally right, compared to less than a third of Anglicans and Catholics. The survey, *The Puzzle of Sex*, will be published next month by HarperCollins.

Di Bishops in the Church of England will issue a statement tomorrow warning that they will oppose amendments to a resolution on homosexuality when it is debated at the General Synod in York next month. The resolution demands the bishops' 1991 report *Issues in Human Sexuality*, which insists on celibacy for homosexual clergy but takes a more liberal line for the laity. The motion calls for the report to be discussed in dioceses.

Evangelicals and Catholics in the Church have long been dissatisfied with the report. At least one amendment has been tabled demanding that the synod reaffirm traditional biblical morality, which opposes practising homosexuality.

On adultery, the religious teenagers had a stricter moral code than their peers. Half the

### Record crowd crowns Queen Mother's Ascot visit

THERE was warm applause and a few tears from the record number of racegoers at the first day of Royal Ascot yesterday as Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother abandoned her familiar motorised buggy to walk through the crowds to the Royal Enclosure (Emma Wilkins writes).

Accompanied by the Princess Royal, the Queen Mother charmed to owners and trainers before walking 300 yards from the paddock to the Royal Box

without sticks or assistance. The Queen Mother had used the buggy to arrive at the paddock but waved it aside for the return journey.

Members of the royal party arrived at the racecourse in the traditional carriage procession. The Queen, in a pale pink lightweight wool coat dress, trimmed with white piping and a hat of white straw with pale pink band and a small bunch of lilies of the valley, shared the first carriage with

the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Gloucester.

The Queen Mother, who was wearing a mauve coat over a floral dress, was in the second carriage with the Princess Royal, who was dressed in an electric-blue outfit. Princess Margaret and the Duchess of Gloucester followed in the third carriage.

The crowd of 49,088 was a record for an opening day, and 7.6 per cent up on last year. Before the Queen

arrived, a man wanted by the police was recognised in a car driving down Ascot High Street. An officer knocked on the window and asked the four occupants to get out, but the car took off at speed.

Tariq Javed, who was wanted on a criminal warrant by officers in Reading, was arrested with two others after a three-mile chase.

Racing reports, page 42

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CLIVE POSTLETHWAITE

# Oxford dows vote to accept plans for business school

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD dows voted overwhelmingly yesterday to accept plans for a business school and with it a £20 million donation from the Syrian-born benefactor Wafic Said.

The 342 to 35 majority in Congregation, the dows' parliament, came just four days before Mr Said's deadline for withdrawing his offer if agreement could not be reached. In November a stormy meeting of Congregation threw out the original plans amid concern over its siting on university sports fields. Mr Said's background as an arms-deal negotiator and his level of control over the business school.

The university came back yesterday with a new site and watered down Mr Said's influence on the business school foundation, which nevertheless remains the main focus of opposition.

Dr Peter North, Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, said that the 7-1 majority demonstrated the university's "wholehearted support" for the £45 million



Said: previous plan had been rejected.

project. He said it would help to secure another multi-million-pound donation that would be a "substantial contribution" towards the £9 million shortfall on building costs. He refused to name the donor, whose support still rested on approval of the architect's plans.

Professor John Kay, director of the Said Business School, who had threatened to resign if dows rejected the plans, said that the size of the vote showed Oxford had accepted manage-

ment studies as a viable discipline. Professor Kay said: "This result is as good as we could have hoped for. There are 55 people in Oxford who would oppose anything you put forward."

He said the business school could open its doors as early as 2000. "I think there is now no reason for this not going ahead. Most of the speakers against were hiding behind rather imaginary technicalities in order to disguise their opposition to management studies, and basically Congregation saw through that. We will now create a world-class business school which will demonstrate the importance and vitality of management studies to the university, to the local business community at large, and to the world."

The new site is on land used as a car park next to Oxford's main railway station. Mr Said's original plan to appoint six of the business school's ten trustees was changed to four. Four trustees are to be provided by the university and two independently.

Opposition to the business

school was yesterday led by Alexander Murray, a medieval history don at University College. He objected to the foundation's power to veto the appointment of the business school director. John Finnis, Professor of Law and Legal Philosophy, said the university had set a precedent of surrendering its academic autonomy to "any donor who pushes hard enough".

But several speakers insisted that the university had



Congregation yesterday accepted proposals for a business school, and a donation from Wafic Said, who had set a deadline for agreement

addressed all the major objections raised in November. Dr Colin Lucas, the Vice-Chancellor-elect, said: "The question is not whether there should be a management school. It exists already. The question is whether it will flourish and grow with necessary speed into a school of great international reputation."

Professor Sir Richard Southwood, the previous Vice-Chancellor, described Mr Said's offer as a "win-win situation"

and gave warning that there would be no third chance to renegotiate terms. John Fleming, Warden of Wadham College, said that Mr Said's conditions, which included a place on the day-to-day management committee of the school, were a small price to pay. Mr Fleming said: "It is donations mainly from people in business which are crucial to the sustenance of Oxford's distinctive collegiate and tutorial system."

## Six-figure salary engenders envy among academics

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

OPPONENTS of the new Oxford business school fear that the project could herald the end of an egalitarian pay structure. Oxford and Cambridge have been struggling to recruit leading academics under an antiquated pay structure that puts all professors on a basic salary of about £40,000.

Although the ancient universities have discretionary arrangements for high-fliers, they have been unable to match the packages offered by rivals in the United States and even some in Britain.

The six-figure salary that will be paid to Professor John Kay as the business school's first director caused envy around Oxford. Other appointments are also expected to be far above the university norm, bringing pressure on a system designed to foster a collegiate spirit.

British universities have been free since 1989 to negotiate their professorial salaries. Many took advantage of this flexibility to enter the so-called "transfer market" for academics to boost their research ratings. Oxford and Cambridge remained largely above the fray.

Surveys of academic pay carried out by *The Times Higher Education Supplement*

suggest that about 200 people in British higher education command six-figure salaries. Most are clinical academics or vice-chancellors.

The pay gap between these top earners and lecturers has been growing by the year. Academic salaries still start at less than £20,000 a year and the top of the lecturing scale remains below £30,000.

At Oxford, even the vice-chancellor is paid less than £80,000 a year. Many of the 360 professors rely on extra income from consultancy work and college posts to match the salaries paid in other universities.

Dr Peter North, Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, acknowledged yesterday that the university struggled to offer competitive salaries in areas such as management. But he said there was sufficient flexibility in the university's salary structure to address the problem successfully.

Alexander Murray, the medieval historian who was among the principal opponents of the scheme, said he was concerned at the impact of "City-type salaries" on the balance of the university. But Professor Kay said it would be impossible to build a successful business school if pay uniformity were imposed.

## Holocaust education pack for schools

By LIN JENKINS

SURVIVORS of the Holocaust living in Britain have used their personal histories to help to put together an education pack for 13-year-olds.

The work, which took academics, survivors of the Nazi genocide, educationists and film-makers a year and a half to compile, is designed to fill what they see as a woeful gap in the knowledge of many secondary school teachers. It includes startling images as well as facsimiles of government documents and newspaper reports.

A series of colour wallcharts depict various subjects including the locations of all the extermination, labour, transit and concentration camps. There is particular emphasis on the labour camps in the Channel Islands, to give the subject immediacy for children in Britain.

The Holocaust Education Trust and the Spiro Institute, a Jewish educational and cultural body, which jointly produced the pack, say that many teachers know so little about the Holocaust that they find it hard to meet the requirements of the national curriculum, under which the subject is compulsory. Jon Mendelsohn, head of the trust, said: "Schools have been asking for help because the material available was severely limited."

A guide for teachers has been provided and the pack gives suggested lesson plans, essay titles and discussion topics. The accompanying video can be shown in sections to fit in with lesson planning.

Sean Lang, honorary secretary of the Historical Association and head of history at Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge, welcomed a pack on the Holocaust, saying that it was important that pupils should have such good resources. The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority welcomed the pack but did not agree that the subject was being inadequately covered.

## Cambridge wins £60m backing for Silicon Fen

By JOHN O'LEARY

THE software company Microsoft yesterday launched a £50 million quest with Cambridge University to create a computer with common sense.

Cambridge was picked from dozens of universities in Europe to be the Californian company's first overseas research base. Microsoft will invest up to £10 million into local companies in an attempt to create a "Silicon Fen".

Professor Alec Broers, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge, said the university would soon have a centre of high technology to rival the best in the world. The launch of the scheme was attended by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade.

Tasks set by Microsoft for the 40-strong research team will include making computers more understanding of owners' needs. Nathan Myhrvold, a Cambridge graduate and Microsoft's chief technology officer, said: "Computers still have an arcane structure. We see them being softer, more forgiving, having some degree of common sense."

The laboratory will open in August in rented premises. Professor Broers said the university's main contribution was likely to be in land and premises rather than cash, and would not be of a size to limit the university's activities in other spheres.



Broers: said laboratory would be world leader



## Catholics and Protestants unite to mourn policemen

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, IN LURGAN, AND AUDREY MAGEE

HUNDREDS of Protestants and Catholics stood shoulder to shoulder outside the RUC station in Lurgan yesterday to pay tribute to the two police officers who were murdered by the IRA.

Pensioners, mothers and children came from opposite sides of the divided town to leave flowers outside the police station and to sign four books of condolences. Amid an array of bouquets lay messages that showed Northern Ireland's revulsion at Monday's murder of Constable John Graham, 34, and Constable David Johnston, 30.

One message said: "From a sincere and disgusted Catholic," another Catholic wrote: "My blood runs cold at this dreadful act. Deepest sympathy."

The shootings, which dealt a devastating blow to the search for peace, united all shades of political opinion in condemnation of Sinn Fein and the IRA. In one of its strongest attacks on the republican movement, John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, said in Dublin: "Those who carried this out are trying

to destroy the peace process." Mr Hume was speaking after talks with Bertie Ahern, the leader of Fianna Fail, who said that he would meet Sinn Fein only to discuss an IRA ceasefire. Mr Ahern made clear that he would refuse to meet Sinn Fein after June 26, when he is likely to be elected Taoiseach by the Irish Parliament after this month's general election.

In Lurgan, people queued outside the heavily fortified station, where the Union Jack flew at half-mast, to sign the books of condolences laid out on tables by the cross-community Lurgan Inter-Friendship Group. As the clock on the nearby Anglican church struck midday, hundreds of people observed two minutes of silence in memory of the constables who were shot a few yards away. Wilson Freeburn, the chairman of the group, said at an ecumenical service that local people regarded the killings as a "personal bereavement".

Close to tears, Mr Freeburn said: "The people who carried out this deed inflicted a severe wound on the people of Lurgan because the two constables put on the face of the local RUC that we came to love and understand and respect. It is time that the silent majority became much more vocal. We need to shout much louder than the paramilitary groups or political parties so that we can find the peace we desire in our nation."

During the service Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, held talks inside the station with Freddie Hall, the RUC Assistant Chief Constable for the Southern Region, and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader and local MP. Dr Mowlam left the base to sign a book of condolences.

Pastor Edward Betts, speaking after visiting Constable Graham's widow, Rosemary, said that their three daughters, aged 10, 7 and 2, were devastated. "One of the children questioned why and who, while the other just melted into tears at every available opportunity." Pastor Betts, of Tandragee Baptist Church in Co Armagh, said that Mrs

Graham was "a very, very fine girl and she is coping remarkably well".

The Rev Malcolm Scott, who was Constable Johnston's minister, broke down as he recalled a "fine lad" who had time for everybody. He said the policeman had been in the process of moving house with his wife and two young sons.

Mr Scott said: "This really has cut right through the family. He had at least as many Catholic as Protestant friends and was very upset when a Catholic friend of his was beaten to death a few years ago. The last thing he would have wanted was retaliation." The RUC last night cancelled its annual sports day out of respect for the men.

Detectives yesterday arrested a man on the nationalist Kilwilke estate, where they had searched several houses after a car used by the killers was found burnt out. Police said the green Rover had been bought locally last Wednesday.

Leading article, page 19



Mo Mowlam signing a book of condolences provided outside Lurgan police station by a cross-sectarian group

## MoD seeks new doctor to fill Gulf War hot seat

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Ministry of Defence is searching for a senior doctor to take charge of assessing veterans with Gulf War illnesses after the second unexpected departure from the sensitive post.

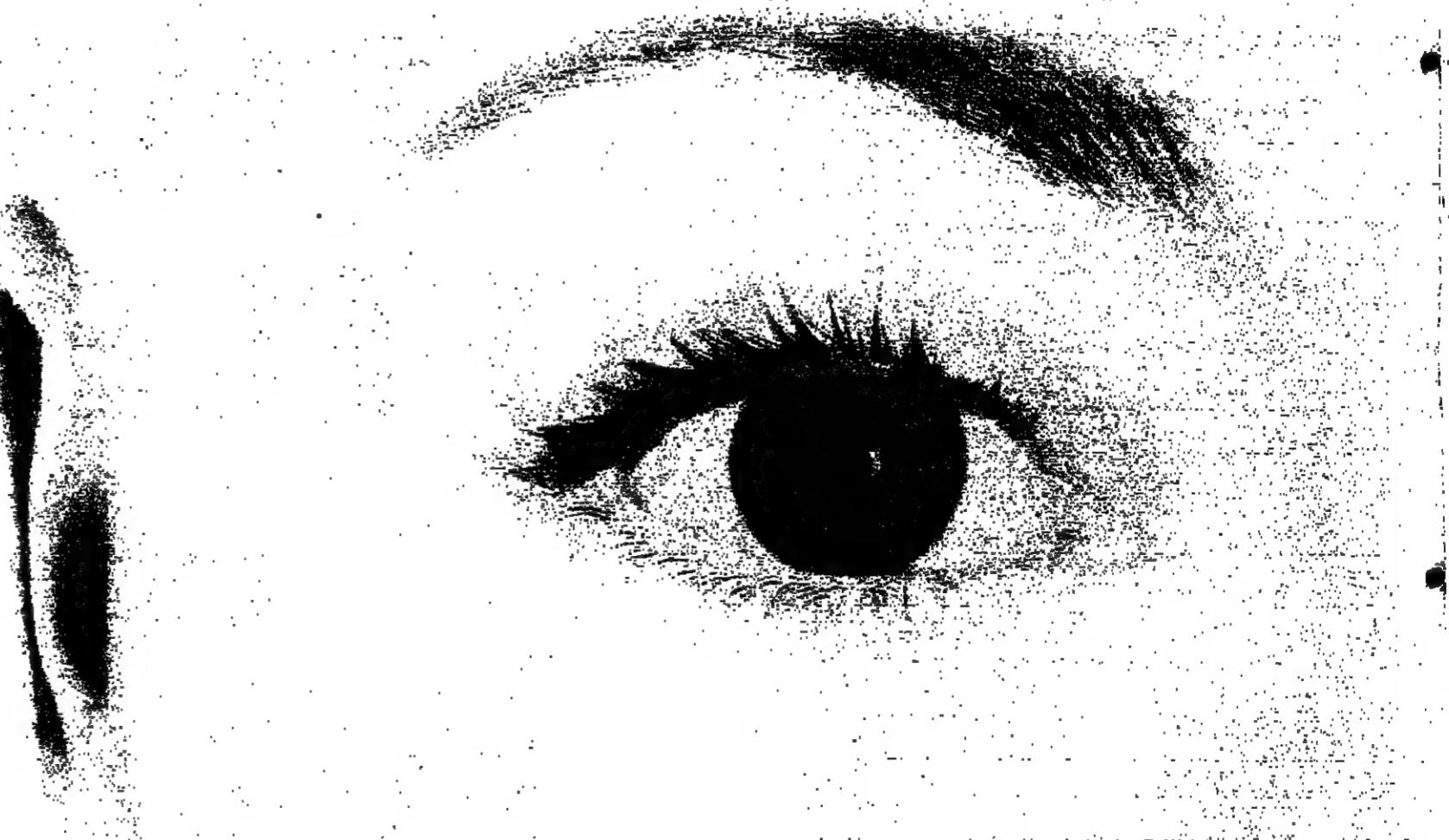
The first doctor to hold the job, Group Captain Bill Coker, asked to be moved after three years. He denied claims by veterans that he had been pushed out because he was becoming too sympathetic to their cause.

The second, Lieutenant-Colonel Banu Bhatt, took a tougher line but resigned last week after only six months. He had faced a torrent of complaints about his assessment of the servicemen and is now said to be under stress.

The role of chief medical examiner of the Gulf War veterans has become highly controversial. At first the MoD dismissed any suggestion that the veterans could be suffering from a Gulf War syndrome, directly related to the 1991 conflict. Now the ministry's official position is to be "open-minded". However, the experience of Colonel Bhatt has served as a grim warning to his successor of the pitfalls of the job.

Countess Mar, who has led a personal campaign to "discover the truth" about the Gulf veterans' health problems, said that some of them had become disillusioned with Colonel Bhatt's attitude. "The

## They work better together.



Fossil bones prove the jungle cat once lived in Essex

## Did kitty come from the Essex marshes?

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FOSSILISED bones found alongside the A13 have proved that jungle cats once prowled the Essex marshes.

The species, found today in Egypt and Asia, coexisted 200,000 years ago with lions, rhinos, mammoths, brown bears and wolves. Danielle Schreve, a palaeontologist, says:

"The jungle cat, *Felis chaus*, which is larger than a modern wild cat but smaller than a lynx, may have been one of the ancestors of the domesticated tabby. It is still abundant around the edges of human settlements in Egypt and could have contributed to the ancestry of kitty." Ms Schreve says.

The fossils were found as part of an excavation funded by the Highways Agency and carried out by the field archaeology group of Essex County Council. The A13 is being widened at Aveley and the excavation is to establish

the presence of any interesting remains before the macadam covers them.

The team found one of the cat's front legs, consisting of the humerus, radius and ulna bones, the longest of which is 13 cm. The jungle cat, which has a short tail and pointed ears, would have lived in the margins of the marshland, catching small mammals, birds and frogs.

Mrs Schreve, 25, a PhD student at University College London, who also is consultant palaeontologist to Essex County Council, said: "It is a really exciting find because we had no idea this cat had ever reached Britain."

Archaeologists believe that animals were not domesticated until man began forming settlements about 10,000 years ago but since pet cats are anatomically very similar to wild ones, it is difficult to date the emergence of the domestic cat with precision.

<http://www.cwcom.co.uk>

JAYLIC 102

# Fires on cruise ship ignite an old-fashioned mystery

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH  
ON BOARD VICTORIA

BRITISH investigators boarded the cruise liner *Victoria* in the German port of Rostock last night to investigate two fires. Arson was not being ruled out.

The fire service experts had flown out from England to board the vessel before it weighed anchor and set course for Copenhagen during a tour of the Baltic with more than 670 passengers, most of them British.

The *Victoria* is the smallest ship in the P&O fleet and its cosy elegance harks back to a gentler era before today's great superliners. Agatha Christie's detective Hercule Poirot would not be out of place twiddling his moustache in the panelled library as he mulled over the case after a kipper breakfast.

The second incident was the more serious, occurring early yesterday when a fire broke out in an office of the food and beverage department. Stuart Barber, a member of the crew working for the department, was trapped in an adjoining cabin and raised the alarm.



The *Victoria*, built in 1965, carries a crew of 400

He was freed by firefighters and was said to be shaken but unharmed.

The first fire broke out in the early hours of Sunday after the ship had left St Petersburg.

A computer recording passengers' bar bills was melted — although the ship is understood to have a copy of the records. Nobody was injured.

Steve Burgoine, the captain, said that the incidents would not prevent him from sailing last night after spending yesterday in Rostock while passengers visited Berlin. "I am perfectly happy to sail the ship," he said. "There is nothing wrong with the ship." He said that the events of the past few days were unusual. In

both incidents he had called full crew alerts and had experienced only five such alerts in 32 years at sea.

"It could be a big coincidence. I'm not ruling out anything," he said. "I don't know how the fire was caused. Everything points to a cigarette or spontaneous combustion, or somebody starting the fire."

He added: "I don't see any risk to passengers and crew. I am going to double up my patrols and watches and take a keener interest." Last night he was planning to address passengers to reassure them that the ship was safe.

Captain Burgoine said that the *Victoria* had the latest fire detection and fighting equipment. The ship goes into dry dock in November for a refit to meet a deadline for further safety improvements laid down by international maritime regulators.

The investigators searching for clues last night were from the fire service in Hampshire because the two-week cruise had departed from Southampton last week. The investigators' verdict was not expected until at least tonight.

The 28,000-tonne ship, which carries 400 crew and a maximum of almost 800 passengers, was built in 1965 and is now ageing and old-fashioned by the standards of younger superliners.

However, like her sister ship *Canberra*, which is bowing out of service later this year, she commands fierce loyalty among passengers, especially those of a certain age. Many of those on the current voyage have cruised many times on the *Victoria*.

There were no indications last night among those snoozing quietly in the lounges that they planned to disembark before the boat returned to Southampton.



The lido on the liner, whose elegance engenders loyalty among older passengers

**Woman passed as American serviceman**

BY RICHARD DUCE

FOR more than six months an English woman disguised herself as an American serviceman and hoodwinked military police at a US airbase so that she could be close to her sweetheart.

A newspaper cutting has been discovered in which Teresa Smith recounts how she cut her blonde hair and mingled with servicemen based at Burtonwood, near Warrington. Now the Burtonwood Association is anxious to trace Miss Smith, who is believed to have married and moved to the American Midwest in the 1950s.

In an interview with *The American Weekly* in 1954, Miss Smith told how in a time of postwar austerity she was smitten by the apparently luxurious lifestyle of the American servicemen. She snuggled herself on to the base to see her boyfriend and spent so much time there that she lost her job as a nursing assistant.

Over a game of cards with five airmen it was decided as a dare that she should see how long she could pass herself off as one of them. Her bravado ran to standing in the rear rank during morning roll call and eating in the mess. "I had the devil in me then," she told the American paper.

The romance ended but Miss Smith is believed to have married James Viars, another serviceman at the base. If alive she would be 65.

**Mobiles opposed**

Four out of five people want drivers to be banned from using hand-held mobile phones, a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents survey says. The society said there had been at least four deaths where a mobile phone had been implicated. "We don't want to see any more."

**Beatles grant**

The National Trust has won a £47,500 National Lottery grant towards restoring Sir Paul McCartney's former home, a council house where he composed his first songs and the Beatles practised. The terrace house in Allerton, Liverpool, will be opened to visitors next year.

**Airport challenge**

Matt Benson, 23, who spent 17 nights in a tunnel at Manchester Airport's second runway, has promised to continue protests and break his record for staying underground. Protesters are today to seek leave in the High Court to challenge the decision to approve the runway.

**Youths cautioned**

Twelve teenagers have been cautioned by police over the circulation of forged free bus passes and identity cards. The youths from two high schools and a college on the Isle of Wight were questioned after it was found that passes under a scheme subsidised by the council were being forged.

**Dangerous dog**

Two women were slightly hurt when they were knocked down by a car apparently being driven by a bull terrier. While the dog's owner was visiting friends in Dorchester, the terrier jumped into the front of the car, broke the handbrake and knocked the vehicle out of gear.

## Outburst lands cox in hot water

BY RICHARD DUCE

CAMBRIDGE University's winning Boat Race cox, a self-confessed hothead, was fined and banned from traditional end-of-year races after directing a violent outburst at a rival.

Only an immediate appeal by Kevin Whyman allowed him to compete in last weekend's May Bumps final on the River Cam. Whyman, 21, the Peterhouse cox, lost his temper with Rob Stanforth, the Emmanuel College cox, after claiming his crew was being impeded after a race. He swore and threatened to have oars broken over the backs of the rival crew.

A repentant Whyman said yesterday: "I'm a two-tier person. I'm nice and quiet out of the water but in it I am a hot-headed guy. If I wasn't that sort of person I wouldn't have steered the way I did in the Boat Race. I accept that my language was out of order. I fully regret what I said but I didn't think too much about it until the storm erupted."

"It was my first bumps and I was excited. We were on our way back when the Emmanuel crew kept stopping and starting in front of me, which was causing us problems because we were practising some technical work."

"It was dangerous behaviour and I told them in my uncertain terms to get out of the way or they could get hit by a blade. Language like that is sometimes used. I didn't mean I would actually do it."



Whyman after victory in this year's Boat Race

Despite an immediate apology for the incident on Friday, a notice was posted that Whyman had been suspended from the Saturday finals.

George Gilbert, secretary of the university's combined boat clubs, said the £50 fine "was due to the rude and abusive behaviour of Kevin Whyman to another crew ... university rowers are expected to set a standard".

Whyman's ban was lifted after an appeal to David Cassidy, the Cambridge Boat Race president, who argued on his behalf. "The way he was treated was without precedent," he said. "Possibly someone was trying to make an example of him."

Whyman competed on the final day of the May Bumps — eventually won by Downing — but still faces a disciplinary hearing.

## Paedophile claim man bailed

A police investigation was under way last night into the claims of a man who said on live television that he had had sex with boys. The 36-year-old was released on bail yesterday pending inquiries by Scotland Yard's Paedophile Unit.

A police source said last night: "We are taking this very seriously." The man, who has not been named by police, claimed on the BBC1 programme *Kilroy* that he had sex with up to 18 boys. Officers acting on a tip-off arrested him as he left the Teddington studios in south-west London on Monday.

**Double blow**

A mother's house was burgled hours after her year-old baby was badly hurt in a fire. Karen Allison, from Leeds, learnt of the break-in as she sat with her daughter Jessica in hospital. Jessica was saved by two youths who climbed a drainpipe and smashed a window to reach her.

**Mobiles opposed**

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# Blair faces decision of the millennium

**Labour Party split over whether ministers should risk approving £580 million scheme for Greenwich exhibition centre**

BY JILL SHERMAN  
AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Labour Party was split yesterday over whether ministers should give approval tomorrow for the proposed £580 million Millennium Exhibition in Greenwich.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is said to be against the scheme because of the uncertainty over costs. Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, is understood to be appalled at the paucity of ideas on his desk for what to put in the exhibition.

The decision will be taken by a small group of Cabinet ministers including Tony Blair, John Prescott, Mr Smith, and Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Mr Blair's main concern is whether the project will work and be financially viable. Many on his own back benches regard the idea of a London exhibition centre that resembles an upturned umbrella as a waste of money. Ten Labour MPs will today put down an early day motion suggesting that the exhibition money would be better spent on education, transport and the health service.

A senior source close to the Prime Minister said yesterday that there were two questions that the Government had to answer. "The first is whether Britain, in principle, should have an event which stamps Britain on the world map at a time when few other countries are doing anything like this," he said. "But the more important overriding question is whether it is going to work."

So far £120 million has been spent on site clearance and £24 million on design and development. Construction contracts have been agreed and, if Mr Blair gives approval, building work will begin early next week.

The cost of the scheme has already been cut from an estimated £700 million to £580 million. After £215 million for building and infrastructure, £220 million is allocated for

David Quaraby, chairman of the British Tourist Authority, has pleaded with the Government not to scrap the Millennium Exhibition. In a letter to Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, he says that in 2000 the dome could generate up to £500 million in revenue from overseas visitors. Without it, he says, tourism chiefs will be hampered in their efforts to attract people to Britain in the face of international competition.

the exhibition content and £145 million on the operating costs. The funding should comprise £200 million from the Millennium Commission's National Lottery money, £195 million from private sponsors and the same amount from gate receipts. Between 10 and 12 million visitors are forecast.

If the scheme goes ahead, what will not be changed is the centrepiece: the transparent dome designed by Richard Rogers. Lord Rogers, a Labour peer and close friend of Mr Blair, is known to have lobbied him and Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, over dinner recently. Yesterday Lord Rogers said that he was confident that the exhibition would get the Government's blessing.

The problem for Mr Blair in juggling the figures is that no one is sure what is going to fill the plastic dome, which will be big enough to contain 13

Albert Halls. The millennium commissioners have so far spent more than £10 million on consultants without reaching any strong conclusions about the contents of the exhibition. The money has been paid to the design group Imagination, to Lazard's for a business plan, to WS the property consultants Atkins, to study land reclamation and transport arrangements, and to lawyers.

Lord Glenboran, a millennium commissioner, told *The Times* yesterday: "Conceptually we know what is going to go into it. As far as actually writing down the bits and pieces of hardware in a shopping list, that isn't done. It's moving at a hell of a pace. There is a high risk, there is absolutely no doubt about it. Everybody is aware it's a high-risk project. A lot of pretty intelligent, high-powered people have been involved in it. It is an act of faith. The whole thing hinges on the content."

The six independent commissioners are the science broadcaster Dr Heather Couper, the conservationist the Earl of Dalkeith, the Newcastle United chairman, Sir John Hall, the *Times* columnist Simon Jenkins and the barrister Patricia Scotland and Lord Glentoran.

A source close to the Millennium Commission said: "They decided to put on the biggest and best festival ever held in the world without any experience of running events, no idea what it would cost, with a horrendously tight deadline, and have fudged every decision."

The man originally charged with the job was Gary Withers, 46, creative director of Imagination, the London design company behind much of the VE celebrations. His original plan for a "Circle of Time" — 12 pavilions arranged like a clock face — was dropped in favour of enclosing all the exhibition under one roof. Imagination completed its revised proposals last March but was not consulted by Mr Smith during his recent re-

view on the prospects for the millennium dome. His company is still in daily contact with Millennium Central, the organisation that will run the exhibition, but has yet to be appointed to any official role.

Mr Withers says that he never wanted to be the sole designer for the exhibition and suggests that Millennium Central should canvass as many ideas as it can.

This month the designer Stephen Bayley, founding director of the Design Museum in London, was chosen to help to rescue the scheme. He was appointed creative director of Millennium Central.

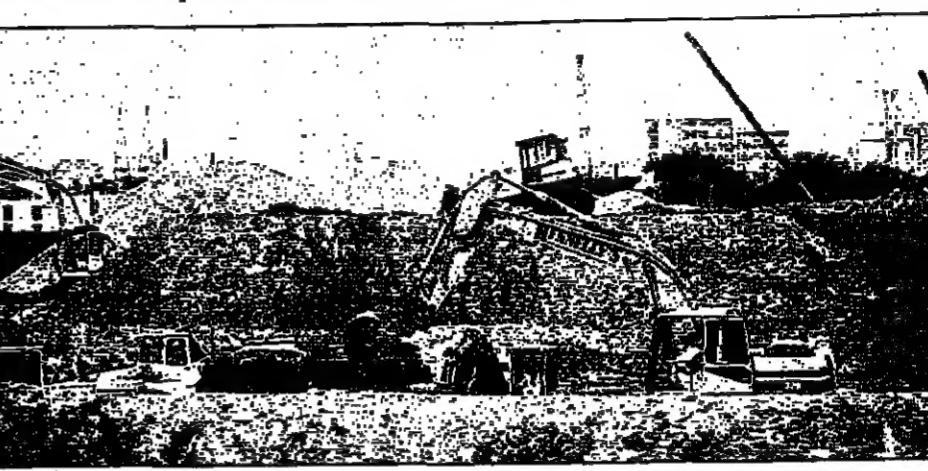
The organisation insists that there is plenty of time to make the centre fit work and says it will recruit sportmen, scientists, educationalists and musicians to act as advisers. A spokesman said: "The important thing is that politicians have to stop moving the goalposts and decide what they want to spend and what they want this creation to be. We will only get one chance."

Yesterday Mr Nick Raynsford, Minister for London and MP

Nigella Lawson, page 17  
Letters, page 19



An impression of the exhibition centre that has been likened to an upturned umbrella and, below, the building site at Greenwich.



## Leicester lands space centre cash

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A NATIONAL centre celebrating the achievements of space exploration is to be built in Leicester with money from the Millennium Commission.

The consortium behind the bid, which includes the university and the city council, has won a grant of £23 million and must now find matching funds before the building can go ahead. Two thirds of the money has already been promised, the consortium says.

The National Space Science Centre, to include displays, original materials and hands-on activities, will occupy the site of a decaying and obsolete sewerage treatment works in the city centre. The aim is to give space enthusiasts the best access to current research enabling them to follow current space missions. There will be a planetarium and a Challenger Learning Centre, an educational scheme developed by the

partners. Work to prepare the site is expected to start soon.

John Eggleston, chairman of the steering committee and a senior partner at the accountants KPMG, said: "It's a great honour for Leicester to be behind the National Space Science Centre for Britain." Efforts to attract the matching funds were already well advanced. "In addition to pledges of financial support there are pledges of major space artefacts including objects from the European Space Agency and NASA moon rock."

Heather Couper, a millennium commissioner and astronomer, said: "The National Space Science Centre reinforces Britain's position at the forefront of space science research. I am also very excited that it will open up this fascinating subject to over a quarter of a million visitors every year."

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JAYCOLE

## Family's bonds waver on Wall St

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN  
IN NEW YORK

**WALL** Street, arguably the most unsentimental place on earth, is gripped by a family saga of soap-opera proportions. Why, everyone is asking, did Jessica Bibilowicz leave her father's broking house to work for someone else?

Such interest is explained by the fact that the father is Sanford Weill, a Wall Street titan; the broking house is Smith Barney Inc, one of America's largest; and 37-year-old Ms Bibilowicz, apart from being fiercely intelligent, is an attractive blonde.

Ms Bibilowicz who ran the mutual funds department for Smith Barney, was widely believed to be on an express train to the chief executive's post. Being the boss's daughter helped, of course, but so did the fact that she was good at her job.

But why did Ms Bibilowicz move to John Levin & Co, a comparative Wall Street midget? It has been suggested that she fell out with James Dimon, the firm's chairman. Mr Dimon, 41, is just as clever and ambitious as Ms Bibilowicz. He is her father's protege, and Mr Weill relies on him to such an extent that many regard him as the tycoon's adopted son. When Mr Weill went through a rocky patch some years ago, it was Mr Dimon who rescued him, suggesting a variety of astute deals that put the former back in business.

In a nutshell: daddy was not going to let filial sentiment cloud his judgment. A daughter is, naturally, a daughter, but when it comes to a valuable chap like Mr Dimon, business comes first.

Ms Bibilowicz has denied that she left the firm because she could not overtake her rival. She has, in fact, denied that Mr Dimon is a rival at all. She said: "I'm not leaving Smith Barney because of the size of my job or anything else. I am leaving Smith Barney because I think this is a good opportunity for me."

Mr Dimon said: "Jessica was a friend before she got here. She was a friend while she was here. And she's a friend now."

Observers believe, however, that there were profound disputes between the two, particularly over corporate tactics. Some, however, see things in more straightforward terms. Burton Greenwald, a mutual fund consultant who has worked often with Ms Bibilowicz, said: "She has a terrible cross to bear as the boss's daughter. She will never be judged by her merits as long as she's in Smith Barney."

Market report, page 28

## Gore sued in row over report on TWA crash

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A WOMAN who lost her husband in the Lockerbie disaster and was appointed to a White House airline safety commission is suing Vice-President Al Gore over the report into last year's TWA Flight 800 crash.

Victoria Cunnock has filed a suit in federal court against Mr Gore and the Department of Transportation, alleging that the Vice-President forced her to abandon a call for specific counter-terrorism measures and demands for their implementation. A magazine report claimed yesterday that Mr Gore's decision may have been influenced by large-scale campaign contributions from the airlines, including TWA.

Mrs Cunnock has not endorsed the accepted theory that the Boeing 747 was brought down by mechanical failure and believes a terrorist bomb could have been the cause of the disaster.

She claims that Mr Gore, as chairman of the commission, refused to publish her detailed dissent as part of the group's official recommendations following last July's TWA crash off Long Island in which all 230 passengers and crew were killed.

The report, when presented to President Clinton in February, was said to have the unanimous support of all 21 members of the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. It recommended that special bomb detectors should be installed at only 54 of America's 450

airports and, even then, only bags deemed suspicious would be checked.

Mrs Cunnock refused to sign the report and, according to *The American Spectator*, she then received a fax from Gerry Kavauer, the commission's executive director, promising her dissent would be published if she relented. She was later told Mr Gore would not agree to include her comments. The magazine alleges that Mr Gore's initial enthusiasm for anti-terrorist measures, which could have cost airlines as much as \$1 billion (about £600 million), was curbed by large donations to the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign by many airlines, including TWA.

Federal Election Commission documents show that airlines gave nearly \$500,000 in soft money to the Democratic Party after Mr Clinton appointed the commission.

In September last year on the day that Mr Gore promised the airline lobby there would be no expensive new counter-terrorism measures, the Democratic National Committee received a \$40,000 contribution from TWA headquarters.

In her suit, Mrs Cunnock claims that the commission and the Department of Transportation intended to file the final report without her complete dissent. She says the body violated the Federal Advisory Committee Act which requires committees to publish full minority dissents.

## Romania dispute is likely to delay French re-entry to Nato

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE likelihood of France announcing its reintegration into Nato at next month's Madrid summit is fading as the prospect of a showdown with the United States over Romanian membership increases.

The US declaration last week that it would back the inclusion of only three new members — Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic — in the first round of Nato expansion has infuriated France, which backed Romania, and other Nato members who backed Italy.

The deepest wound — the one which will continue bleeding

ing the longest — is in France, a senior US administration official said yesterday. He added that although Romania's future entry was virtually certain, it would be "profoundly stupid" to commit the alliance in Madrid to bringing in Romania at some future date because it would create two classes of members, something the alliance has tried to avoid.

A French government official said yesterday that as there had been "no advance" in the US position to accommodate France's views, the chance of reaching agreement before Madrid must diminish.

A member of the Moge people waits to vote in the Western Highlands area of Papua New Guinea. The election started on Sunday, but due to ballot papers not being ready or misprinted, ballot boxes being destroyed

## Islanders go to polls

and polling station violence, voting is expected to last for two weeks. A Papua New Guinean politician kidnapped by separatists on Bou-

gainville Island on June 1 was released yesterday. John Monis, the MP for Bougainville Province, was taken captive while campaigning for the election. He was released after three days, only to be recaptured by a different rebel faction and taken to the rebel heartland, near the vast Panguna copper mine, root of the conflict. (Reuters)

## Judge rules OJ must do without golf

Los Angeles: Golf is not an essential part of O.J. Simpson's life, a Beverly Hills judge has ruled at a hearing to decide which Simpson assets should be a so-called for the families of Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman (Giles Whittell writes).

Simpson, who faces a \$33.5 million (£20 million) bill in damages for the wrongful deaths of his former wife and her friend, plays golf four or five times a week on municipal courses, having been ejected from the exclusive Riviera Country Club. His lawyer argued therefore that his golf equipment was essential to the conduct of his everyday life.

## McVeigh 'motivated by Red scare film'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

TIMOTHY MCVEIGH, the Oklahoma City bomber, was motivated by the 1984 film *Red Dawn* with an extreme right-wing subplot that should be a sobering lesson to film-makers, a leading Hollywood commentator said.

The film, in which America is invaded by Russian and Cuban troops, is a vivid reminder of the need for Hollywood to consider the moral and political consequences of the material it injects into our global pop culture," wrote Peter Bart, editor of *Variety*.

Mr Bart, a former MGM executive who approved the initial script, said *Red Dawn*, according to Mr Bart,

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Naples in crackdown on Mafia

Rome: Troops were on the streets of Naples yesterday as Antonio Bassolino, the Mayor, cracked down on gangland crime after a series of Mafia murders (Richard Owen writes).

He said that bringing in the army was a "regrettable necessity". Gangland warfare between rival factions of the Camorra, the Naples-based Mafia, has left 76 people dead since the beginning of the year.

### 28 wounded in Hebron

Hebron: Israeli troops shot and wounded 28 Palestinians in a fourth day of clashes with Arabs who hurled stones and petrol bombs in the West Bank town of Hebron, witnesses said. Officials at al-Ahli hospital said a Palestinian boy, 12, was in a critical condition after a rubber-coated metal bullet penetrated his head. (Reuters)

### Atom plant cancer check

Paris: A fresh inquiry has been ordered into the incidence of cancer around a nuclear reprocessing plant at La Hague in northwest France after an official study showed a "concentration" of cases near the site. The study indicated that children may have developed cancer after playing on a beach. (AFP)

### Mexico bars way to priest

Mexico City: The Mexican Government has barred Henry McCollum, a Scottish priest, from re-entering the country. He is at least the twelfth Roman Catholic priest to have been expelled from Chiapas, where rebels staged a brief uprising during 1994. (AP)

### Sri Lankan suicide toll

Colombia: More people have died by suicide than have been killed in Sri Lanka's civil war, according to a government report. About 70,000 people have killed themselves since 1983, when the rebellion by Tamils began. The war has claimed 50,000 lives. (AP)



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## Blair to curb costs of hosting summits

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER IN AMSTERDAM

TONY BLAIR is to call a halt to the "freebie culture" that benefits thousands of journalists covering European Union summits. The financial rigour of the Labour Government is about to stop the "gravy train" for reporters who flock to European capitals for the six-monthly European Council gatherings and subsidiary meetings of finance and other ministers.

Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, have been horrified at the cost of staging summits and, particularly, the lavish gifts, free food and soft drinks showered on the press. With Britain set to stage several big summits next year, including two Group of Eight gatherings which will be attended by journalists from all over the world, and the European Council summit in Cardiff next June, they are trying to control the cost.

The Cardiff gathering is already being dubbed the "austerity summit" by European journalists. Mr Brown has been told that the basic press facilities for an informal meeting of finance ministers in York early next year will cost £50,000.

The overall cost of staging Amsterdam is reported to be £5 million. The 3,200 journalists covering the

EU summit were invited to go to a warehouse in the summit complex and pick up their "presents for the press", which included a suitcase and trolley, a bottle of jenever — the local speciality, three small metal drinking cups, shoe-cleaning kit, three pens and a CD-Rom extolling the attractions of the Dutch capital.

Food and soft drink and — unusually — telephone charges are free. Alcohol has to be paid for. The cost falls on the Dutch taxpayer.

Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, is a prime mover in the campaign to end the freebies, although there appears to be resistance in the Foreign Office to the idea of cutting off free food and soft drinks for journalists who are effectively captives in the summit complex while it is proceeding.

He said yesterday that he would probably be seen as a killjoy, but "why should the press get all these freebies when people are short of food in many European capitals".

Mr Campbell, former political editor of the *Daily Mirror*, said that when he attended summits he refused to accept the gifts. He is backed by Mr Brown.

His press secretary, Charlie Whelan, said: "We are determined

to keep costs down. We owe it to the British taxpayer not to waste their money." Handing presents to the press and diplomats is not a practice confined to Europe. Reporters travelling to summits of the Group of Seven industrialised countries usually get their press bags packed full of goodies, including tape recorders. Next year there will be a special jobs summit of the G7 and Russia in London and the annual gathering at Birmingham in June. With Britain holding the EU presidency for the first six months of 1998, there will be a host of Union meetings.

EU veterans say that the most lavish gifts have often been doled out by the least wealthy governments. Hardened EU journalists are cynical about any British crackdown. They were decidedly underwhelmed at the hospitality provided under the last British presidency. At the last London EU summit, journalists received polyester neckties and were served sparse rations on paper plates. "It cannot get much worse," said one. The austerity may only last for six months. Other countries need not follow Mr Blair's example.

Leading article, page 19



A selection of the "freebies" that 3,200 journalists covering the European Union summit in Amsterdam were given by their Dutch hosts. They included a suitcase and trolley, a bottle of the local speciality, metal drinking cups and shoe-cleaning kit

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HIGH RETINOL WITHOUT IT'S RISK

## Brollies and gold watches sweeten task of the press

BY PETER FOSTER

IN THE course of their duties the average European editor will pick up an array of souvenir ashtrays, china dishes, cheap watches, beach towels, mugs, paperweights, coffee-table books, tourist guides, carry-cases, document holders, compact discs, cassette tapes and most other forms of brio-brac you care to mention.

None of these items is intended to corrupt, according to a former Foreign Editor. They are rather meant as small tokens of welcome and are often supplied by local businesses hoping to push their wares and promote the local economy. Lisbon '92 will be fondly remembered by one European specialist for the spacious white, red and green beach towel which he still takes on holiday. The child of another foreign correspondent still plays with the Mercedes-Benz model car that dad bought home from a German EU summit.

Last year was a particularly happy one for the "summitier". Several lobby correspondents are still working out of the smart canvas document carry-case which they were given at the emergency Turin summit in March, and a teenage son is still wearing the Swatch wristwatch that was brought home. Fortunately a second summit in June threw up a second watch for the younger brother.

In Dublin last winter corre-

spondents were grateful for the complimentary golfing umbrella which the Irish Government handed out. "It rained non-stop," one journalist recalls. Thankfully, the press kit also contained a bottle of Jameson's Irish Whiskey to keep out the cold, and a side of smoked salmon.

These gifts are modest by the standards of some states. One political reporter recalled yesterday how journalists travelling with the former Prime Minister, John Major, were all given gold watches after a three-hour stop in a Gulf state. Conscientious members of the press who declared their gifts on their return to England were asked to pay up to £1,000 in duty.

Mr Blair's plans for an economy drive will be no surprise to foreign journalists who rated the British summit in Edinburgh in 1992 as the worst yet. Many of the main events took place in an athletics stadium with the BBC setting up their studio in the men's showers which burst into life during one broadcast. "We spent the rest of the summit looking nervously at the ceiling," recalled one present.

Yesterday, as journalists returned home from Amsterdam, it was not difficult to see who had been at the European party, as lines of weary reporters dragged the same complimentary suitcases through the airport.

## No cheese-paring in Caerphilly country

BY GLEN OWEN

CARDIFF, scene of next June's European Council summit, gave a sour reception to the clampdown on the "freebie culture". The city's chamber of commerce suggested that local businesses might be called on to keep the gravy train rolling, or, as the chamber's Helen Conway put it, "to make sure that journalists go away with a good impression of Cardiff".

"We are certainly intending to be hospitable ... it is the perfect chance to encourage more visitors." She said it was too early to disclose the contents of the "goody bag" for journalists. "There are some fine Cardiff brews and Caerphilly cheese is a local speciality. Not that I am suggesting they are only interested in food and drink."

In York, where a meeting of EU foreign ministers will be held early next year, the view was the city was entitlement enough. "People have been coming here for thousands of years, so they will not have to be persuaded to enjoy them-

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# 'Son of Maastricht' scales down goals for Europe unity



Grand vision finds no place in last-minute haggling over the finer points of the new Union treaty, reports Charles Bremner

AS EUROPE'S leaders laboured last night to overcome the final sticking points in the new Union treaty, it was clear that pragmatism and old-fashioned national interest had prevailed over grand vision in the effort to revamp the Maastricht treaty.

More than five years since the leap towards political union and two years since talks began on the revamped version, the "Son of Maastricht" has lurched into life as an exercise in cautious compromise, a 150-page reflection of the defensive, inward-looking mood of the Union.

"Modesty was the name of the game," said a minister from federal-minded Belgium, who contrasted yesterday's haggling over textual minutiae with the bolder statesmanship of Europe's past. For many officials, the overriding priority was to avoid shaking monetary union. The project at the heart of the push for political union survived a Franco-German dispute this week, but faces a shaky countdown to its launch in 1999. "No one wanted a crisis. EMU is the big game in town," a British official said.

Jacques Santer, the President of the Commission, voiced his own complaint about the Treaty of Amsterdam. "I would have liked it to have been more adventurous in one or two areas," the former Luxembourg Prime Minister said. A Dutch diplomat said that "Delors was the embodiment of Maastricht. Santer is the walking Treaty of

## Protesters arrested

Amsterdam: Dutch police arrested about 120 protesters who were shouting outside hotels where European leaders were staying. A police spokesman said they would be released from custody after paying fines. But he said another 340 people arrested following demonstrations on Sunday night remained in custody awaiting charges. (Reuters)

pect of the treaty negotiations better than last night's squabbling over the "institutions". This is the streamlining needed to ensure that the arrival of new members does not jam the workings of the Commission and the EU's decision-making machinery.

Only one of the dozens of new treaty sections contains the seeds of a big break with the past. That is the article on "flexibility", a mechanism for allowing groups of states to band together in new policies, provided they do not interfere with the single market and other existing practices.

The Government, worried that this could be used to create a "hard core" to the detriment of the others, was fighting last night to ensure that the device was always subject to a veto.

British officials last night played down the significance of the flexibility clause, saying "the political steam has gone out of it" for the rest of Europe since the defeat of the Conservative Government. The flexible approach had been devised largely as a way of getting around Tory resistance to change in the EU, an official said.

However, with something



President Chirac, left, with Helmut Kohl in Amsterdam. They managed to resolve most of their differences over monetary union

Treaty of Amsterdam, EU leaders were preparing to declare victory once the haggling was over.

Tony Blair, who espoused most of the EU positions of John Major but with friendly rhetoric, was happy that he had achieved his aims of retaining sovereignty over British borders, keeping the EU out of European defence and putting job creation high in EU priorities. "We have achieved what the Conservatives never managed by sitting and carping on the sidelines."

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said. However, some doubts did hang over a separate deal to solve Britain's "quota-hopping" problem with foreign fishermen. Spain, whose vessels are most active with British licences, was objecting to an accord worked out by London and the Commission. Britain was also pleased that it had succeeded in introducing an Article on animal welfare into the Union's constitution, albeit with a Spanish-inspired clause making exceptions for

cultural traditions". Though heavy with language promising citizens such things as "fundamental rights of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights", the Amsterdam treaty carries only a couple of big ideas in response to the complaints that the EU has lost touch with its citizens. This is the proclamation of a "zone of freedom, security and justice" that lifts frontier controls, except those on the borders with Britain and Ireland, and centralises administration, again with limits.

Germany, one of the most federal-minded states, demonstrated its sense of insecurity by blocking the majority desire to fix decisions on asylum and visas by majority rather than unanimous voting. Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor and still the dominant force in the EU summary, said that it was a "national duty and a piece of self-preservation" to ensure that Germany had a veto on such decisions.

Another gesture to the dominant fear of European citizens is the new employment chapter, proposed by the Swedes last year and heavily pushed by France's new Socialist Government. Germany failed yesterday in an attempt to place severe restrictions on the use of EU funds for job creation.

Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, was busy taking credit for the chapter, which is twinned with proclamations on employment policy extracted from Germany to accompany the "stability pact" on monetary union.

Simon Jenkins, page 18

## Jesuit assures diehard atheists they will get chance to enter pearly gates

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

ATHEISTS who secretly worry there might be an afterlife after all were yesterday offered comfort by a leading Jesuit theologian, who declared that non-believers would also enter Paradise after death, "provided they live and die with a clear conscience".

Father Giovanni Marchesi, resident theologian on the Jesuit magazine *Civiltà Cattolica* (Catholic Civilisation) said members of

the other great world religions, such as Buddhists, Muslims and Jews, could also hope for "eternal salvation". He said St Augustine had been wrong to say that non-believers would burn in Hell for eternity. Instead Father Marchesi said he based his theories on the gospels, and on the writings of the third century Christian writer, Origen, who held that, although souls became either "demons or angels" after death, at the Last Judgement "even the Devil himself will be saved".

Father Marchesi said his text had been cleared by the Vatican before publication. "I prefer to describe atheists as those who

believe that they do not believe," he said. "Both they and those who adhere to non-Christian religions may still hope for salvation, as long as they have earned it by the way they lived their lives."

Father Marchesi said Christ had died on the cross "to save all of suffering humanity". He did not want to cause offence to non-Christians, but Christians "must always hope that others will move towards the light".

Father Marchesi said that, although St John wrote that "the

unbeliever has already been judged because he did not put his trust in God's only Son", he also wrote that "it was not to judge the world that God sent his Son into the world but that through him the world might be saved".

Father Marchesi has also drawn on Edith Stein, the Carmelite nun of Jewish origin who died at Auschwitz and was recently beatified by the Pope, who wrote that "faith in the immeasurability of divine love and grace justifies the hope of universal redemption".

But Alessandro Maggiolini, the Bishop of Como and a member of the Vatican commission formulating a new Catechism for the millennium, said that atheists did not have privileged access to Paradise. Asked if he thought tyrants such as Nero and Stalin had been guaranteed salvation, the bishop replied that "the mysteries of the human conscience and divine design" could not be easily penetrated.

Margherita Hack, the leading Italian astronomer, said the new

ruling marked a significant overture to atheists by the Vatican. But she said that, since she did not personally believe in the world beyond, the latest theory was irrelevant to her.

"What matters is what we do in this world," Professor Hack said. *La Repubblica* published a cartoon showing St Peter welcoming an atheist at the pearly gates with the words 'Do come in, you too can enter Paradise'. "Thanks all the same, but for me it does not exist," the atheist replies, turning away.

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# Israeli Labour leader plans Blairite revamp

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ENVY of Tony Blair has spread to Israel, where the main opposition Labour Party announced plans yesterday to send a team of experts to Britain to learn his methods in its efforts to defeat the right-wing Government of Binyamin Netanyahu.

Although many of the superficial parallels work out differently in practice, Israel's newly elected Labour leader, Ehud Barak, at 55 some 22 years younger than his uncharismatic predecessor, Shimon Peres, believes that the Blair model is the key to his success. He is even prepared to go so far as to introduce a similar party name change.

Labour was unexpectedly trounced by Mr Netanyahu's right-wing coalition in 1992, an election largely fought on security issues. But many commentators felt that Labour was also dragged down by its links to the Histadrut Trades Union Federation and its inability to appeal to the mass of Jewish voters.

Mr Barak, who has vowed

since his election on June 2 to try to defeat Mr Netanyahu, who has a 66-54 majority, before the next poll in 2000, told members of Labour's central committee: "Our experts are going to find out what it was that Blair did to rehabilitate the British Labour Party and bring it back to power. I would like to make use of his experience and employ his methods here."

A former army chief of staff whose political ambitions

have earned him the nickname "Napoleon", Mr Barak was seen by party members voting in the June 2 primary as the only one of the four candidates with a chance of beating Mr Netanyahu.

Mr Barak told the committee that he has not ruled out the possibility of renaming his party, as Mr Blair did. One suggestion was to rename it the Israeli Centre Party, but Mr Barak said he was considering changing the name to

CARTOONISTS AND WRITERS SYNDICATE



the New Labour Party. "This may have a psychological significance, though I am aware that a name is not everything and that the really important thing is the substance of the message. But even names and appearance have their importance," said Mr Barak, who has been out of uniform for only two years and is sorely lacking an organiser of the calibre of Peter Mandelson.

His plans for a British-style image transformation won backing from his main rival in the leadership election, Yossi Beilin, who said: "A new name would embody the fact that we are dealing with an old established party which seeks to renew itself and make itself relevant once more."

But as with Old Labour diehards in Britain, there are those in the Israeli party still contemptuous of such manoeuvring. Nissim Zvili, who resigned on Sunday as Labour Party Secretary-General, said: "It is the same party and it smells the same no matter what you call it."



A Black Watch soldier rehearses a Highland dance for a Hong Kong farewell concert

## Guerrilla radio calls Pol Pot a traitor

FROM JAMES PRINGLE  
IN PHNOM PENH

POL POT, the Khmer Rouge leader, has been denounced as a traitor by Khmer Rouge radio, the station that was his mouthpiece for decades.

The denunciation was made as the 69-year-old leader, under whose rule at least a million Cambodians were killed, reportedly fled through thick forests towards the Thai border, allegedly with a small group of hostages and loyal fighters.

The last person to be called a traitor by Khmer Rouge radio was Son Sen, the former Khmer Rouge defence chief, who with his wife, family and bodyguards was murdered last week, apparently on Pol Pot's orders.

"The problem of the treason of Pol Pot has been settled on June 14 and the people are rejoicing," the broadcast said.

Though few here would speculate what the broadcast meant by the problem having "been settled", a senior government official said yesterday that the situation around Khmer Rouge headquarters at Anlong Veng in northern Cambodia was "chaotic", and that the guerrillas, after failing to agree on future strategy, had broken into three feuding factions.

"There is fighting at two places south of Anlong Veng, and near the Thai border. Khmer Rouge skirmished with government troops," said the official, who has access to military reports. "The situation is extremely confused, and our army is trying to stay quiet as the Khmer Rouge fight it out among themselves."

The two alleged

Khmer

Rouge

hostages

are

Noun

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the

so-called

"Brother

Number

Two"

and

Khieu

Samphan

a supposedly mod-

erate member of the guerrilla

leadership who has said he

wants to enter the Cambodian

political mainstream.

Prince Ranariddh, the First Co-Prime Minister, says Pol Pot is in poor health, is being carried on a hammock and is on the verge of being captured by the breakaway factions now controlling Anlong Veng, a series of small villages.

None of the Democrats will be members of the legislature by then because at the stroke of midnight their places will have been taken by the Chinese-appointed Legislative Council.

The Democrats intend to force their way in just before the swearing-in, at the new Convention Centre, of the Chinese body. Mr Lee's supporters are to gather outside the assembly from 10pm to protest at what they claim is an illegal usurpation of the legally constituted legislature.

The CPP looks in a good position to defeat Funcinpec in elections due to be held next year. Most of its leaders are former Khmer Rouge who have split with Pol Pot. They want to see Khmer Rouge leaders put on trial.

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## Democrats prepare to disrupt handover

FROM JONATHAN MURSKY  
IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S Democratic Party may commit civil disobedience on the night of the handover to China, an act that will test the resolve of the Chief Executive-designate, Tung Chee-hwa, "not to make martyrs of the Democrats".

Last night Martin Lee, chairman of the Democrats, who dominate the elected Legislative Council, said that at 1am on July 1, one hour after the formal ceremony transferring sovereignty of Hong Kong to China, he and eight colleagues would attempt to enter the legislature. He aims to deliver a speech on freedom from the balcony to a crowd waiting below.

None of the Democrats will be members of the legislature by then because at the stroke of midnight their places will have been taken by the Chinese-appointed Legislative Council.

The Democrats intend to force their way in just before the swearing-in, at the new Convention Centre, of the Chinese body. Mr Lee's supporters are to gather outside the assembly from 10pm to protest at what they claim is an illegal usurpation of the legally constituted legislature.

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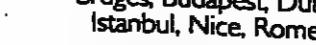
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# Russian admiral 'kept millions from sale of fleet'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

**RUSSIAN** military prosecutors yesterday brought charges against one of the country's most senior naval officers who was accused of pocketing millions of pounds from the sale of decommissioned Russian warships.

In what looks set to become one of the most talked-about corruption trials in post-Soviet Russia, investigators have accused Admiral Igor Khmel'nov, the former head of the naval staff, of massive "abuse of powers" when he served for two years as commander of the Pacific Fleet.

The admiral, who was dismissed in April by President Yeltsin with three other senior officers accused of corruption, was the commanding officer when 64 warships were sold to South Korea and India, including two aircraft carriers which alone were worth £6 million. The proceeds from the sale were supposed to be spent on a naval memorial and on building flats for officers.

However, according to the charges, only 273 servicemen were housed in the new accommodation and many of the properties were distributed among the admiral's relations and friends.

The allegations have highlighted the desperate and lawless state of affairs in the Far East, where Yevgeni Nazdravkin is the regional governor,

has also been accused of corrupt practices and may be removed from his post by presidential order.

In Soviet times, the Pacific Fleet was the pride of the navy. From its headquarters in Vladivostok, the fleet extended a truly imperial reach across the world, boasting bases in Cam Rahn Bay in Vietnam and Aden in Yemen, as well as regular port visits to other Communist bloc military allies from Angola to Cuba.

However, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Pacific Fleet became one of the first victims of military cuts. From 1992 to 1994 it declined from 335 ships to 140 and only a handful of those in commission were seaworthy.

Rusky Island, a naval base opposite Vladivostok, has become a junkyard for abandoned ships and submarines, which lie half-submerged and rusting in inlets and bays.

The terrible state of the navy was seen clearly in 1993 when four conscripts stationed on the island died of starvation. Since then the region has become notorious for illegal arms sales as unpaid servicemen have taken to selling whatever military equipment they can get hold of.

The gun-running racket is probably responsible for a spate of huge explosions over the past four years at military arsenals, which on occasion

have been set on fire by soldiers so as to destroy traces of their thefts.

Despite the charges against Admiral Khmel'nov, there is no evidence that his trial will have any deterrent effect on other officers. According to sources at the military prosecutor's office in Moscow, the case could drag on for months and a conviction is by no means certain.

Prosecutors are far more confident about another military trial of General Konstantin Kobets, a former Deputy Defence Minister, who is in custody in Moscow charged with bribery and corruption.

Yuri Skuratov, the Prosecutor-General, said last month that his office was processing 18 cases against generals alone, including the commanders and deputy commanders of the ground forces.

"The list is impressive, which shows that the situation in the army is not normal," Mr Skuratov told a news conference.

■ **Minister's protest:** Boris Nemtsov, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister, refused to meet Sir Leon Brittan, the European Trade Commissioner, yesterday in protest against EU anti-dumping measures, including import duties, against Russian pipe and tube manufacturers, officials said. (Reuters)

Prosecutors are far more confident about another military trial of General Konstantin Kobets, a former Deputy Defence Minister, who is in custody in Moscow charged with bribery and corruption.



Villagers flee flooding near the village of Vaupalière, outside Rouen, yesterday. The Government has promised emergency funds for victims

## Four die as mudslide engulfs Normandy village

FROM ADAM SAGE  
IN PARIS

**FRENCH** rescue services were braced for further storms last night after four people drowned in a giant stream of mud which followed fierce rain in Normandy.

A mother and her two children, aged three and seven, were killed by the mudslide as they tried to reach their car in the village of

Vaupalière, six miles from Rouen, on Monday night.

In Rouen city centre, a driver died when he crashed in rain so heavy that visibility had been reduced to "zero" according to the police.

French firefighters used helicopters to rescue dozens of other people stranded in villages. Many victims were plucked from the roofs of their houses.

Witnesses in Rouen said the

city's streets became gushing torrents within minutes as the storm broke. Several dozen cars were swept away by the waters, a garage collapsed and the windows of many shops and houses were blown off. People panicked. I saw firemen evacuate about 100 people from a hall which was beginning to be invaded by water and mud.

Yesterday the French Government invoked its "natural disaster plan" to help the 1,000 families whose homes were flooded by the hour-long storm. Under the plan, emergency funds will be made available to help people to repair damage to their houses or find a new place to live.

In Normandy, the flooding launched a fierce debate over the removal of hedgerows in recent years. Ecologists claim that the hedgerows that once covered Normandy would have prevented the flooding and saved lives.

Daniel Lefèvre, head of maintenance at the local coun-

## Curbs on trade in ivory to stay

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS  
IN HARARE

THE world's largest conservation group yesterday narrowly rejected plans by three southern African countries to resume limited trade in ivory after a 7½-year ban.

However, the proposals by Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe were not completely dead because procedural wrangling will allow them to have a vote on the issue today. The debate covered one of the most contentious issues facing the 138-nation United Nations Convention on Trade in Endangered Species, which earlier in the day rejected three proposals to ease restrictions on whaling. That proposal won approval by a 75-41 vote with seven abstentions, but that was three short of the 78 needed for the required two-thirds majority.

The ivory debate dragged on for more than two hours as 62 countries spoke out on the issue. Animal rights groups were shut out due to time constraints.

South Africa, which backed the plan by its three neighbours, proposed setting specific limits on the amount of ivory to be sold, and delaying the sales for 18 months.

The three countries say they have more elephants than their land can support and that money from the sales would go back into conservation and development of remote areas where the animals live.

## Young French told to drink wine

BY ADAM SAGE

YOUNG French people are damaging their health by drinking too much cola and not enough wine, a new survey has found.

They are also ignoring the advice of a leading dietician that they should consume a glass of wine with each meal from the age of 16, according to the survey for the Familles de France association. As a result, they risk iron deficiency in the short term, and heart disease and dementia later on, all of which might be prevented by a regular *verre de vin*.

The association shocked traditionalists when it published research showing that the diet of people aged between 16 and 25 is no longer very French. Instead they have been influenced by the country's *bête noire*, the United States, and their favourite foods include pizzas, sand-

wiches and hamburgers, often consumed in front of the television in less than half an hour. For the older generation, used to leisurely two-hour, three-course meals, washed down with copious amounts of rouge, the findings were horrifying. But there was worse. More than 20 per cent of the young people interviewed said they drank cola at lunch, despite warnings that it could lead to obesity and brittle bones.

Dr Jean-Paul Curtay, a nutritionist, said: "Regular consumption of colas is associated with a sharp rise in broken bones amongst adolescents."

Wine is now hardly sold at young people's venues. The study also found that only 17 per cent of young people were consuming even one or two glasses a week.

This is a mistake, according to Christine Joyeux, a leading dietician, who

encourages 16-year-olds to "initiate" themselves in wine drinking by consuming a couple of glasses a day. Wine, according to her, is rich in iron, improves circulation, and can stave off serious diseases such as cancer. A recent scientific study also found that three or four glasses of wine a day can help to prevent Alzheimer's disease. Madame Joyeux said the "bad habits" of the youth could "provoke grave health problems, either immediately or in the medium term. Young people who eat badly are also those who take the most medicines."

Her warning was echoed by another nutritionist, Jean-Marie Bourre, who said the French could lose their reputation as a nation of relatively few heart attacks. Although they are five times less likely to die of heart disease than the British, Mr Bourre said: "If you eat badly at 20, it can mean cardiovascular problems at 50."



Terre'Blanche: "I will never go to jail"

## Terre'Blanche gets six-year jail term

FROM SAM KILEY IN POTCHEFSTROOM

AMID scenes of comedy and pathos that showed little sign of breaking out into a promised race war, South Africa's white supremacist Eugene Terre'Blanche was sentenced yesterday to six years' jail for the attempted murder of one of his black employees.

The bearded leader of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) stood motionless as he was told that he would go to prison for trying to kill Paul Motshabi, 32, with an iron bar in an assault that left his victim brain damaged.

Outside the court a dozen of his followers swore that if he was taken to prison, "we will fight to the end".

When the AWB last took up arms and attempted to take over Bophuthatswana in 1994,

they retreated ignominiously after three of their members were killed by a black policeman. But a follower from Krugersdorp said yesterday: "We have 90,000 members, all of them highly trained."

Bail was set at 20,000 rands (£3,000) after Terre'Blanche said he would appeal. "This was a disgusting miscarriage of justice. I will never, not ever, go to jail," he said while he waited for his supporters to stump up his bond.

Judge Chris Exteen, dismissed the defence argument that the AWB leader, convicted last month, was a "man of peace who wanted to establish a state by negotiation, not violence". Mr Exteen said that he was a "violent man motivated by hatred of blacks".

## BA wins Paris airport safety row

Paris: British Airways ended the row over security with the Paris Airport Authority yesterday when it accepted a proposal to move its check-in desk away from war-torn Algeria's state airline (Adam Sage writes).

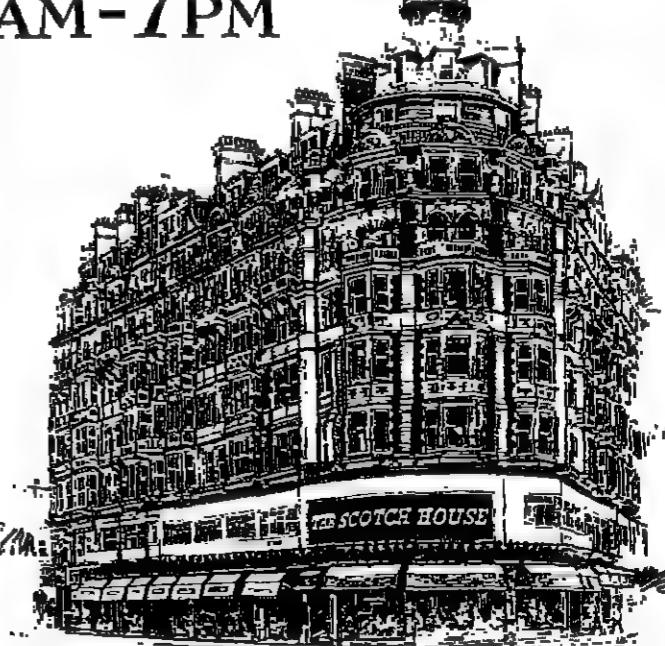
Pointing out that provincial French airports had ordered Air Algérie to use isolated check-in facilities away from other airlines, BA took legal

action against Aéroports de Paris, the city's airport authority. Yesterday, however, BA dropped its claims as the authority agreed to give it new check-in facilities well away from the North African carrier's desk.

Managers said the resumption of flights between France and Algeria, where 60,000 people have lost their lives in a five-year civil war, represented a risk to BA's customers and staff.

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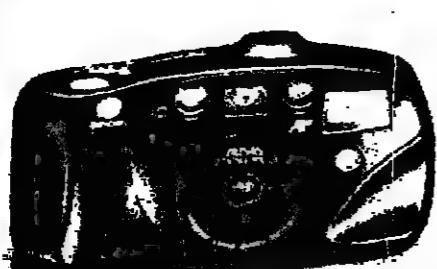


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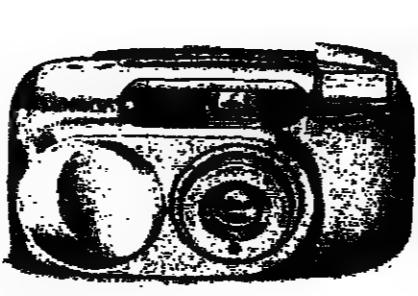
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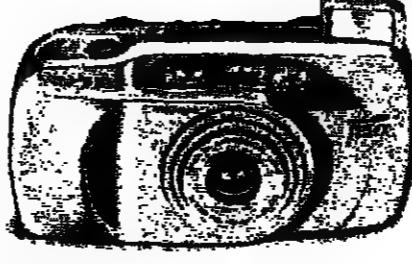
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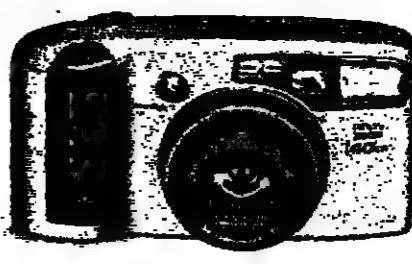
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# Hotline to Heaven

**Neale Donald Walsch claims to talk to God.**  
Now His conversations are topping the US bestseller lists. Interview by Susan Ellicott

In Neale Donald Walsch's rendition, God sounds like a theological version of the Nike slogan: Just Do It. Everything is acceptable in God's sight, he says. There's no such thing as sin. No evil. No right. No wrong. We're all imperfect, yet perfect in our own special way.

He says God advised him to: "Decide who you are — who you want to be — and then do everything in your power to be that." And, more provocatively: "I do not love 'good' more than I love 'bad'. Hitler went to Heaven."

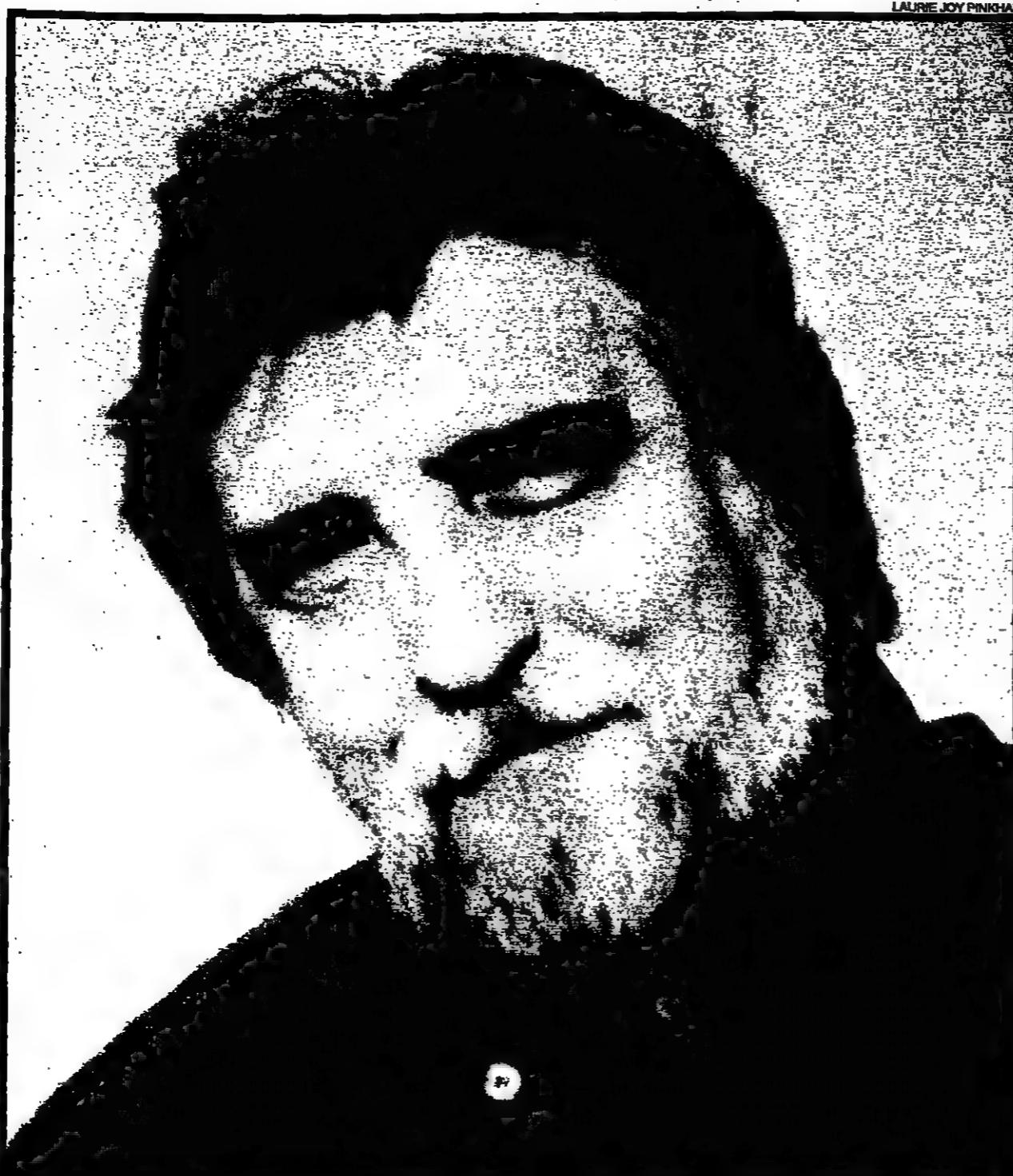
Walsch, a former radio talk show host with five ex-wives, is America's latest divine messenger. Five years ago he was out of work and broke. Today, he's part New Age guru, part publishing phenomenon, the author of two bestselling books that claim to record verbatim his discussions with God on topics as diverse as sex, careers, more sex, happiness, US foreign policy, education, capitalism and the minimum wage. This odd couple even banter about time travel and extraterrestrials. (Walsch reports that God believes in both.)

"I invite you to explore the questions of life," he says. "When literature does that, it serves the world." The second volume of Walsch's *Conversations with God: an uncommon dialogue* landed in US bookshops last month and already is snuggled up against volume one in the Top Ten of *The New York Times'* non-fiction bestsellers list.

Yet Walsch insists that he didn't really "write" either of them. They "happened" to him. Five years ago, depressed, angry and out of work after being sacked, he began a spiritif letter to God, asking when he would ever be financially stable and lucky in love. The pen began moving on its own, he says, and soon he was taking dictation from God onto a yellow legal pad most nights — usually around about 1am — an experience he likens to "the afterglow following a sexual encounter".

God exhibits a quirky sense of humour. He's sometimes a She. He's sarcastic. He even uses the occasional four-letter word. And so attuned is this Almighty to today's individualistic culture that He/She urges Walsch and his readers to practise saying three key phrases ten times a day: I LOVE SEX, I LOVE MONEY and I LOVE ME. (And those are God's capitals, not mine.)

People magazine put *Conversations* 1 on its list of worst books for 1996. But Walsch is unfazed. "These are the home movies of my mind," he says. "The personal sacred process of communicating with myself." Walsch is Religion Line



The gospel according to Walsch: the former talk show host says there is no such thing as sin or evil, no right or wrong

in a nation awash with Diet Coke and fat-free Häagen-Dazs, the latest in a long tradition of populist spiritual guides. Walsch's God sanctions homosexual and extramarital sex, though he would prefer us to cut out meat and alcohol. (The scribe himself is a vegetarian.)

The *New York Times* magazine dubbed Walsch's writing as "guilt-free reassurance", but in America's post-Oprah, dysfunctional society, his unsaintliness sells big. Extramarital affairs? Yes. A court tangle over support payments to his nine children? Yes. But the fans don't care. He's moved on. He's truly sorry. And they can relate to him.

**C**onversations doesn't touch you here," says Jay Bott, a photographer who has read volume one five times, tapping his head. "It gets you here in the heart."

But how did Walsch know it was God talking and not his imagination when the pen first moved? He says he didn't, but he sent his manuscript to a handful of small publishers, figuring that if they were interested, it must be true. The rest, as they say, is publishing history. The first print run of

5,000 paperbacks, released by a tiny company in Virginia, Hampton Roads Publishing, sold out from New Age stores in two months. When sales, after re-prints, reached 100,000, the publishing titan Putnam stepped in and, according to the trade press, shelled out a seven-figure fee for hard-cover rights. At this stage, Walsch questions whether it matters if it's really God talking to him or not. He's grateful for People's put-down — "million-dollar publicity" — and discounts disdain from the mainstream media as his final comeuppance after his own 17 years in journalism.

But why would God pick Walsch? The author believes it is because of his very ordinariness. He grew up a Roman Catholic, the son of a Polish father and a German mother, in a grimy area of industrial Milwaukee. He says he loved God "enormously" as a child, but was dropped as an altar boy at the age of 12 by a mother superior when he was late for a procession. "I couldn't understand a God who would do that," he says. The aggrieved child grew disenchanted with the formal teachings of the Church. As an adult, he refused to accept that God would punish anyone for eating meat on a Friday or banish unbaptised dead babies to Limbo. At last, he says, he has found God he can love — though his new role sometimes can be quite a burden. "It's rather like the Royal Family," says Walsch. "There are simply things one can't do if one has any sense of responsibility to those who

'It has been made clear that there will be a fourth book'

look up to me." Success has transformed his life, he says, although Nancy, his sixth wife, is his true salvation. Officially, they live in a modest two-bedroom bungalow in Ashland, Oregon, with his golden shepherd, Lady, although book tours and lucrative speaking engagements keep them on the road for about 30 weeks a year.

His worst fear? That he might have become "a quasi rock star for God".

This bear of a man with unruly grey hair and peachy writer's hands quotes from speeches with which he identifies, including Shakespeare's "some have greatness thrust upon them" and Robert Kennedy's "of those to whom much is given, much is asked".

Has he noticed that God's syntax is strikingly similar to his own?

"God chooses to turn up in people's lives the way that is

most acceptable," he says.

"Clearly, if He wants me to notice Him, He's not going to show up as a Hindu."

Those who doubt whether God showed up for Walsch at all include Walsch's home newspaper, *The Oregonian*.

Last year it noted that the message of *Conversations*

was eerily similar to that of a book called *Hitler Went to Heaven*, written in 1982 by a Neal Marshall Walsch before he changed his name to Bob White, the radio host, and later to Neale Donald Walsch.

When confronted, the best-selling author said he had "forgotten all about" the earlier book.

One thing, however, is certain. Walsch's God has a head

for business. From the start, he dictated plans for a *Conversations* trilogy. Walsch has been struggling with number three for three years. He rubs tears from his eyes. "The first two had an innocent purity," he says. "But lately he's grown deeply aware that I'm speaking to the whole world."

**S**o what's next? "It's been made clear to me that there will be a fourth book called *Friendship with God*." Just as my attention glazes, I realise that he is crying. "I really don't want to be the flavour of the month," he says, choking up. "I want this to have an effect."

• *Conversations with God: an uncommon dialogue* (volume one), Hodder & Stoughton, £7.99

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Paedophile compulsions must be recognised

## Liberal conscience or criminal negligence?

No burglar has ever offered as his defence the belief that his victim really wanted to have the tea service pinched; no bank robber has ever told a court that the cashiers got a thrill from having his sawn-off shotgun poked in their faces. If convicted criminals understand nothing else than they usually understand that they have broken the law.

Not so paedophiles. As Kilroy showed yesterday, one trait common to so many paedophiles is the belief that society has got them, and their victims, wrong. Sex between adults and children is, they believe, not only natural but desirable — desired by both adult and child alike. And unlike the rapist who might also claim to be convinced of his victim's collusion, the paedophile doesn't even acknowledge the implicit, if not actual, violence of his act.

The man on Kilroy made no bones about not feeling guilty about his behaviour. More he says he can't change and won't change. Why should he, if he hasn't done anything wrong? Now, you could argue that you have to be sick to think like that, and perhaps you do, but where does that get us?

Normally, I would never believe that the confessions of one criminal should be levelled against any others, but statistics as well as anecdotal evidence prove that the thing about the child molester is that he doesn't stop, doesn't see why he should. Graham Seddon, who served six years of a nine-year sentence for raping a ten-year-old girl, was picked up recently near a playground with a colouring-book and crayons.

I'm haunted by that account and more by the fact that if it happened again, the police would not be able to do a thing. Our liberal consciences might tell us that that is right, but our instincts let us know it is criminally negligent. Perhaps this issue does make the lynch mob member inside us wrestle with the liberal like no other: but we have a duty to do what is right in deed, not what is right in theory.

This week's *Sunday Telegraph* reports that the Gloucestershire police force has decided not to tell the organisers of a boys' club that they are employing a convicted paedophile because they have reason to believe that, if they do, they will (successfully) be sued by the man in question. Only a few weeks ago, another paedophile was sent back to jail for again molesting children, having been given a job working with them — and a job protecting them, that's the irony.

OK, you could argue, these men served their sentences, and should be able to start with a clean slate. If we knew no better that would be one thing, but we do know better: so never mind how unattractively reactionary it makes us feel to argue against the rights of time-served paedophiles, this is no time for vanity, no time to strike poses.

At present, all arguments are centred on whether people should be given the right to know whether a convicted paedophile is living near them. Although I understand that people want to know and feel they have a right to know, it is difficult to see how such a law could, in the first instance, be passed and in the second, be responsibly used. But I've

yet to hear a convincing argument against passing a law to prevent any child molester or convicted paedophile from working with children ever again.

I know that as a result of this column, I will get letters from self-confessed paedophiles, assuring me that I have got it all wrong, that they are not forcing themselves on children, that the children welcome their advances and the only problem is a blinkered society that cannot accept the sexuality of minors.

Such people feel compelled to act in this way. The desire to work with children, to be near them, is part of this compulsion. They don't deny it: why should we?

PERHAPS Naomi Campbell was feeling a bit jealous of all the attention that Jerry Hall has been getting recently. Her recent escapade — which ties in with a campaign she is about to launch for her own make of jeans — has certainly given her a lot of publicity.

The story has been, for those of you innocent of such ephemera, that she had a furious row with her Spanish fiancé after he was photographed — in gossip columnist — "a mystery woman" and she then was rushed to hospital with a suspected overdose.

She waves the story away with an airy "Do I look like I'm distraught, that I have just tried to commit suicide"? This is a difficult line for a model to take. Models are hired precisely to be a blank and beautiful canvas: most of them (though not Naomi I'm sure) are up all night snorting cocaine and then successfully posing as unblemished English roses the next day.

But the most beguiling part of Naomi's defence is her protestation to GMTV yesterday morning: "I don't speak any Spanish and Joaquin doesn't speak any

English so how could we row anyway?" Whatever it says about the current state of their relationship, it does seem a very curious basis for an engagement.

I DON'T think we should be paying too much attention to the growers and may sayers, who are outstripping themselves in their vilification of the proposed Dome in Greenwich. Certainly, it would be foolish of Tony Blair and his Cabinet colleagues to pay any attention to them tomorrow.

The Great Exhibition of 1851 and the Festival of Britain a century later were no less rubbish before the event and were enormously popular afterwards. All you need to do here is plan something monumental and exciting and the British will moan about it. It's our way, that's all.

But a new strand has been woven in: our ever-growing anti-metropolitanism. If the Dome had been planned for somewhere people don't want to go, no one would be quick to contest it. But if it's in London it must be bad, must be unfair and must be an insult to all the other cities.

A capital is, by definition, a position only one city can occupy. Regionality is all very well, but London is our capital. It should be treated as one, be celebrated as one: it does, after all, go with the territory.

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## Alan Coren



■ Dear investor,  
have I got tress  
for you...

Fifty-two years ago, almost to the day, I was chosen to stand beside Winston Churchill on a makeshift podium in the playground of Osidge Primary School, Southgate, and, with him, sing for England. We sang that there would always be one. Winston, I remember, was wearing a navy boiler suit topped by his father's newspaper-stuffed porkpie hat and carrying a cardboard cigar, and I was wearing the khaki battle dress of the Infant Cadet Force topped by a black beret with matching boot-polish mouschette, as our two unbroken glottises trilled in wobbly celebration of VE-Day. Yes — and I have waited half a century for the right moment to make this joke — I was Monty's treble.

The right moment has come because, as you may have spotted in the weekend press, the original of that beret is about to be auctioned, at an estimated knockdown of £7,000. Quite how such estimates are arrived at I cannot imagine; I do not know whether the price is set by historic-hat collectors eager to shelf the beret alongside Florence's bonnet and Isambard's stovepipe, or whether there are Montane freaks jumping up and down out there because they already have his baton or his compass or his dentures. There may even be rich madmen who, unable to get their hands on Napoleon's bicorne, will opt for second-best to enable them to strut around their estates shouting orders at the rhododendrons, but there you have it, or you will for seven grand, a hat that could have been bought in 1940 for two bob has, as the result of being on the right head at the moment, the El Alamein night was lit by that photogenic barrage, has turned out to be a major hedge against inflation. A tremendous investment, albeit a bitter pill for anyone in possession of Auchinleck's bits and bobs: had Churchill not asked Monty to step into his shoes in August 1942, you might today be looking at five figures for the left shoe alone. God knows what a matched pair would fetch, but that's market forces for you.

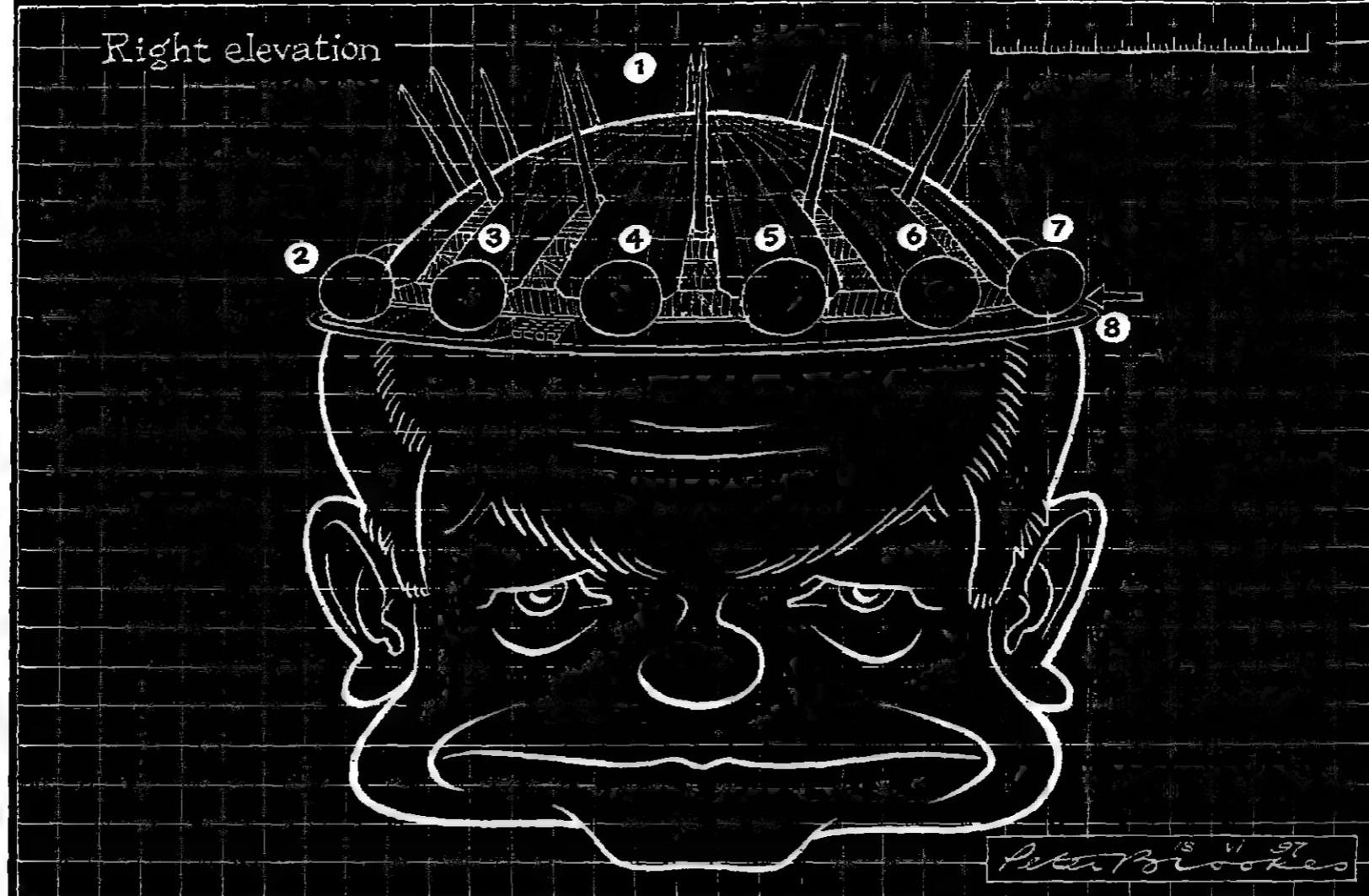
It is also the rub and crux of our business this morning. For the world is full of citizens kicking themselves for not having snapped up relics when the price was rock-bottom, only to see them turn into canny paupers into millionaires at the drop of a gavel. The elusive trick is to spot potential fame, to be smart enough to catch the unknown Lennon on a day when he would give you the shirt off his back for the price of a new plecram, to have the acumen to be passing the right dustbin when the teenage Madonna went up a bra size and threw her first one out. This is a gift bestowed upon only the very few.

And it just so happens that I suddenly find myself in a position to bestow it. While I cannot of course guarantee the infallibility of your investment, I am prepared, for a ludicrously small consideration, to let you in on the groundfloor of a possibly major financial coup. To offer you, that is, an unprecedented chance to cash in on what, after the worms sit burping around my supine dust, might just turn out to be a reputation fit to keep encyclopaedia writers in work for years and compel future salerooms to take on whole armfuls of extra stuff.

Why wait for prices to boom beyond reach? Why fiddle around with building society deposits at 5 per cent or take dangerous punts onify shares, when for a mere handful of notes you could own an original Coren tracksuit today, actually worn while this article (or, as it will later be known, British Museum MS 6885-a/c) was being written? Or a rare monogrammed pewter mug which once hung on its very own peg in the Cricklewood Tavern during the height of that creative period when its owner came in on a daily basis to think about writing the major novel which will unquestionably turn out to be tragically missing from his posthumous effects?

And as if all this were not enough, smaller investors among you should note that the author will also be signing his latest vests at John Lewis, Brent Cross, between 10am and 5.30pm, weekdays only. As the first edition is limited to 500 only, don't be late.

And don't worry: it is merely the Office of Fair Trading regulations which require me to remind you that prices can go down as well as up.



MILLENNIUM DOME FIASCO - WILL IT STILL GO AHEAD?

## Champion of the sceptics

In Tony Blair Britain has at last a leader in a position not just to lecture Europe on its wicked ways — but to be heard

In Amsterdam they riot. In France they fight. In Britain they dart from the depths of think-tanks and gobble up Tory parties. At this week's Euro-summit, they "vomit against Europe". Nowhere have they charisma or the big idea. Europe's famed sceptics have lacked a leader since the fall of Margaret Thatcher. They are a Reformation without a Luther.

Now they have one. He is Tony Blair. In a dazzling series of appearances on the European stage, he has conveyed the same message with the same body-language. Europe is rotten. Its leaders are out of date. New Britain knows the true way. This is the message of the Single European Act, of Thatcher's Bruges speech, of British negotiators through the Nineties. What is new is the messenger. Mr Blair has the political authority to bring scepticism to the heart of Europe, to preach it from the pulpit, not heckle from the pews. In Amsterdam this week, he carried the flag with confidence.

The story begins with Mr Blair's first Eurosummit at Noordwijk on May 23. He was asked whether he enjoyed meeting his fellow European leaders. "Yes," he replied, but added gratuitously, "I would not be enthralled to be told it had to go on for another day." More days there have been, and plenty more to come. The message has become more strident with the pettiness of summit discussion, the obsession with procedure, the irrelevance of these interminable feasts days. They are like an Elizabethan royal progress, glorious for the monarchs but humiliating for the subjects. Two days in Amsterdam reportedly cost £10 million. Britain's European presidency next year must be a lesson in economy. Mr Blair should meet his guests quietly and feed them in restaurants. Their gilded refusals can start after themselves.

This is just surface tension. The Government has found itself fighting the old fight for British beef and fish and for the opt-out on border control. It has fought against a European army, against the farm policy and against bureaucracy. Baroness Thatcher and John Major regarded all this as incubus.

And as if all this were not enough, smaller investors among you should note that the author will also be signing his latest vests at John Lewis, Brent Cross, between 10am and 5.30pm, weekdays only. As the first edition is limited to 500 only, don't be late.

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revolutions are most effective when launched from an unexpected quarter, so Mr Blair's scepticism comes as a greater shock to those who thought Labour would be a soft touch in Europe. Images of Mr Blair sitting on Herr Kohl's knee are long forgotten. Even under Labour, Britain is firmly on Europe's right wing.

We must accept that the diplomatic blitzkrieg may pass. Many former Prime Ministers have sought to bend Europe to the British view. Crushed by the chicanery and irrelevance of Euro-summits, they folded their tents and crept back across the Channel. Bureaucracy continued to bungle. The failure to "reform the CAP" rankled. Why waste time at the heart of Europe, they said, if its corrupted bloodstream uses a bypass Europe's right wing.

Mr Blair is a Eurosceptic but not (yet) a Eurocynic. He seems to be taking the tide at the flood. He enjoys political supremacy in his own country at a moment of self-doubt elsewhere. Every country includes opposition to the federalist ratchet and to the single currency. The "Anglo-Saxon path" of open trade and flexible labour markets is looking good. Mr Blair is like Tamino after trial by fire and water. Thanks to the Thatcher revolution, he can blow his magic flute round the platforms of Europe and nobody dares shout him down. The British way is market-tested.

By this Monday in Amsterdam Mr Blair was parading as a fully-fledged Iron Man of Europe. France and Germany had agreed a job creation package to gloss over deep differences on the Maastricht criteria. Mr Blair welcomed their wish for higher employment, but he denounced squandering EU cash on "supposed" job-creation schemes and the reviled "state intervention". Jobs were about employability, education, skills and our flexible friend, "labour markets responsive to economic change". For good measure, other states should reform their welfare state and not fudge the single currency criteria. The message is clear. If Europe's leaders expect British taxes and labour restrictions to help feather their political nests and to avoid the structural upheavals of Britain in the Eighties, they can think again. His audience must have sighed for that nice lady with the handbag.

Now is this play-acting by a new Cabinet thrilled by its international sex appeal. It is the authentic voice of Britain-in-Europe, singing from a new songbook. It is the Britain of free trade, subsidiarity, national autonomy and minimal bureaucracy. Just as political

parties are going from bad to worse for Michael J. Foster, Labour MP for Hastings and Rye, who, as I reported yesterday, is being confused with Michael J. Foster, Labour MP for Worcester.

Foster of Hastings and Rye is making news with his call for the abolition of hunting. Foster of Worcester is a worried man. "Somebody has just threatened to burn down my house," he said yesterday. "But I've got nothing to do with the bill."

### Burning issue

Tony Blair at the moment. He has deep bags under his eyes, the skin hangs looser on his face, he looks dog-tired. Long negotiations into the Amsterdam night cannot be helping. The trials of the general election must seem like a breeze in retrospect.

John Major, for the time being still the Leader of the Opposition, can sympathise. It did not take long for the rigours of the prime ministership to catch up with him. A few weeks in he was shattered, not sleeping properly and with a seemingly unstoppable round of foreign and domestic chores to do.

P.H.S

THERE is a hunted look about

## The Turner pickles its sacred cows

Time for a new art prize, says Rachel Campbell-Johnston

Prizes are better left to dogs or pots of marmalade than to artists. There are simple criteria for judging the gloss of a coat or the zest of preserved citrus. But can artists really be compared? One person's perception of truth, one individual's cultural interpretation, cannot be ranked above another's. Yet it is exactly this that the Turner Prize pretends to do every year. And every year promoters, patrons and participants alike play along. The presence is becoming increasingly flimsy.

Twelve months ago the Turner Prize jury was unable to come up with a single female artist deemed worthy of its shortlist. There was a stinging backlash. This year, apparently, the achievements of women so overshadow those of the men that the latter are excluded. Nor is there a single painter on the shortlist. This suffocating narrowness defeats the purpose of the prize.

Nicholas Serota, the chairman of the Turner jury and director of the Tate Gallery, which stages a show of the shortlisted work, has suggested that the purpose of the prize is "to bring new developments in the visual arts to the attention of the people who are interested in the culture of our time, but who do not regularly visit commercial galleries in London and the regions, or exhibitions of British art abroad". In short, the Turner Prize is an annual showcase of contemporary British art for the armchair culture-vulture who wants a summary of developments without going to the trouble of trekking from Hackney to Hull. Its aim is to set dinner-tables humming with state of the arts argument and indignation.

If this year's provocative list attains this end it will be for the wrong reasons. The selection of an all-female shortlist appears to be a taunting move designed to serve the shallower purposes of promotion, rather than art. The Turner Prize thrives because it is about focusing the media spotlight on itself, about transforming what would be just another exhibition into an event. In these terms it has had spectacular success.

But to attain this sort of success the artist must dovelo neatly with promotional ends. Probably the best known on this year's list is 40-year-old Cornelia Parker. She rose to wide recognition with her 1995 Serpentine installation *The Maypole*, in which an actress lay, a silent breathing effigy, inside a glass case. This probably owed its impact more to Tilda Swinton — she had recently played the title role in the film *Orlando* — than to imaginative profundity. Undoubtedly this iconic "exporation of the enigma of mortality" had a certain memorable beauty. But surely mortality, that most time-honoured of artistic subjects, has been explored at least as creatively, albeit in a more traditional medium, by such painters as Ken Currie or Jenny Saville.

Another of the shortlisted artists, Gillian Wearing, first burst into the public arena as part of Damien Hirst's *Freeze* exhibition in 1988. Her confessional audio-recordings and videos delve into the fears and fantasies, the secrets and the aspirations of ordinary people. *10-16* is a series of filmed vignettes in which adult actors lip-synch to a soundtrack of the voices of children. A schoolgirl brags of her toughness, but, with amusing incongruity, her voice emanates from the lips of an inoffensive middle-aged woman sitting munching sandwiches. Such entertainment — if predictable — explorations of the adult in the child might be quickly forgotten, were it not for the footage of a naked male dwarf, prostrate in the bath, mouthing the words of a confused boy declaring that he would like to kill his mother because she has become a lesbian.

Novelty and shock, contextualised by arcane explanation, have become the wearily familiar language of the Turner Prize. This is not to suggest that all its supporters are pseudos, any more than its critics are philistines. Christine Borland's fascination with bones combines a searching interest in science and history with a delicate awareness of corporeal fragility. Her subtle pieces are riddled with unexpectedly playful intimations of mortality. Angela Bulloch's inventive installations can be wittily unexpected. If nothing else they trumpet a challenge to dry conservatism.

But these bad girls of British art are in danger of succumbing to such conservatism themselves. Their formulae have been pickled — sacred cows preserved in formaldehyde. To treat the cutting edge has come to seem about as innovative as attending an evening watercolour class. In-your-face attitudes have been staring us too long to seem brazen.

Real boldness in a Turner shortlist would be to set conceptual art in a wider arena. Instead the jury remains content merely to judge best of breed. It is time for the art world to look towards instituting new prizes, to force the Turner to compete harder for the media attention of which it has grown lazily confident. In the literary world, the Booker Prize has had to struggle for its premiership against such awards as the Whitbread, the W.H. Smith, the Somerset Maugham, and more recently the Orange Prize and the David Cohen British Literature Prize.

It is time a fresh arbiter — someone such as Charles Saatchi whose discerning tastes have helped to shape the contemporary art world — instituted a new award to challenge the Turner's narrow introspection. Art is always subjective. But if it is to be placed in the show ring, it should be judged as objectively as possible.

## Scotched

THE FARCE at the Royal Opera House hit another high note yesterday with the sudden cancellation of next week's *Macbeth*, the first new production of Covent Garden's Verdi Festival and a version which has never before been professionally staged in Britain.

Technical problems have been blamed, although backstage staff say that the fiasco results from the number of redundancies among technicians. "They haven't enough people with the skills to put on the

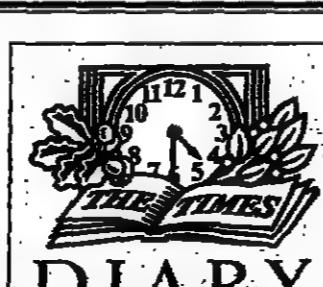
production," said one. "They were trying to bring in countless drossongs who hadn't a clue what to do."

Yesterday the Opera House said cancellation was likely. "But we are not going to confirm it until tomorrow. With the theatre already beginning to shut down, it is an intolerable strain on our backstage facilities."

A delegation from Covent Garden was said to be in a crisis meeting at the Arts Council. Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, is likely to blow his bonnet when he hears the news, particularly after reports that £2.5 million of lottery money has been used to finance redundancies.

The Opera House had planned to put on *Macbeth* next Friday, followed by Simon Boccanegra, with Plácido Domingo in the starring role.

However, two consecutive new productions appear to have been over-ambitious. The Opera House is still waiting for the arrival of its new chief executive, Mary Allen, in September but Lord Chilcot, the acting chief executive, must have decided to cut Covent Garden's losses. Experts estimate that at least £250,000 will already



have been spent on *Macbeth* which may now be staged in a concert performance.

### Off the road

THE AA might be a guardian angel at the roadside, but its bedside manner is bringing down imprecations from church leaders. The new AA *Essential Phrase Book* in eight languages contains, among other things, practical advice for holidaymakers on "How to catch a girl or trap a man".

Worse still for Roman Catholics, it offers translations for "Do you have a condom?" which, in French, reads: "Tu as un préservatif?"

The organisation will receive

"I urge Catholics and other upright members to join another organisation," thunders the Catholic Church's spokesman in Scotland.

### Leading rolls

THE MAIN Tory leadership campaign chose different ways to prepare for the result of the second ballot yesterday. Ken Clarke was sighted having a leisurely lunch in the Garrick Club. Meanwhile, over at William Hague's HQ in Stafford Place, SW1, bang next door to John Redwood's house, a

van pulled up with a delivery of smoked salmon and cases of champagne. The Hot-heads for Hague were clearly preparing for victory. The delivery man grumbled there was no one to pay him. If things continue to go Clarke's way, there may not be.

● There must be an evil sense of humour at work reallocating telephone extensions on the House of Commons switchboard. 6666, the closest the Commons has to the Number of the Beast, has just been given to Margaret Hodge, MP for Barking.

Blair: sleepless nights

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## MARCHING INTO A TRAP

The IRA is setting a snare for Unionists

The Government's severest test so far comes in the first week of next month, not with its Budget, but in how it reacts to a church parade in a village in Northern Ireland. Last year the stand-off at Drumcree, when an Orange march was prevented from passing by a Roman Catholic estate, led first to civil disobedience from loyalists and then, when the march was allowed to proceed, anger and disillusionment among the nationalist population. Now, with two young police constables murdered by the IRA, the loyalist ceasefire fraying and republicans determined to assert their growing strength, the outlook is bleak.

The IRA's murder of Constable John Graham and Constable David Johnston was not an act of unthinking Provo militarism, a reflex Republican swipe. It was a calculated piece of provocation from a political movement determined to make Northern Ireland ungovernable until its demands are met. Republicans hope to provoke the loyalists into a hot-headed retaliation which will inflame nationalist feelings and exploit the greenward tilt of Dublin opinion. The loyalists would be extremely foolish to rise to the IRA's bait. They would forfeit their seat at the talks table, political influence and hard-won sympathy for their community. Those considerations, however, may not weigh with loyalists increasingly frustrated at the impunity with which the IRA acts. They must, if worse is not to follow.

The IRA is determined not to let Drumcree and the other symbolic parades of the marching season pass off peacefully. Republicans must not be allowed another victory for violence. The attachment of Ulster Protestants to their traditional parades may mystify and irritate mainland opinion. They certainly attract some of Unionism's more militant voices. They are, however, one of the last ceremonial expressions of allegiance to the Crown allowed

a community which believes its place in the United Kingdom has been slowly undermined over the past 25 years. The uncertainty Unionists feel about their constitutional position should have been considerably assuaged by the Prime Minister's recent reassurances. Unfortunately, the way in which the majority's wishes have been bypassed, especially since the 1985 Anglo-Irish agreement, has led many to use whatever traditional means are available to proclaim their numbers and their principles.

For many years marches were quietly tolerated by nationalists but, recently, Sinn Féin activists have used them as opportunities for confrontation. The leaders of Orange opinion have tried this month to reach an honourable compromise over Drumcree and the leading nationalist and Unionist dailies in the Province have floated their own attempt at accommodation. Sinn Féin has, however, no motive but mayhem. Its activists will, as they have in the past, marginalise and intimidate voices seeking a settlement. That should not stop Unionists trying. Monday's murders may incline some Unionists to a hardline stance but taking an inflexible approach to marches would mean walking into a republican trap.

If Unionists abandon their attempts to make parades more palatable they will, however unfairly, be seen as provocative. If those attempts fail, and that seems likely, then the Government faces an uncomfortable choice. To ban the Drumcree parade would seem in Unionist circles, like a surrender to republicans and the loyalist reaction could be fierce. The IRA would only pocket the concession and press for more. To allow the parade to go ahead would, however, provide republicans with a stage for civil disobedience and worse. If the Government is not to see the prospect of peace evaporate it must consider now how to meet the threat of terrorist determined on the most destructive of courses.

## PRINCIPLE AND PIQUE

The Tory winner will hold only half of his domain

Last night's Conservative leadership ballot showed the party as deeply split as it could possibly be. Expectations that William Hague would draw away from the pack ought by the normal rules to have led opportunistic MPs to coalesce around the predicted winner. Instead Mr Hague and Kenneth Clarke go into the final round neck-and-neck, with the votes of John Redwood supporters determining the result.

Although Mr Hague increased his vote by more than the other contenders, it was Mr Clarke who won the battle of expectations. Few thought that he would score as many as 60 votes; let alone that he would narrowly beat his junior rival. Mr Redwood emerged a poor third, picking up the smallest number of votes from Michael Howard and Peter Lilley's supporters, even though he was the only unequivocal candidate of the Right.

Mr Hague's relatively disappointing performance shows the extent of the doubts about his candidacy. Messrs Howard and Lilley threw their weight behind him; fewer than half their supporters followed. Some were unimpressed by his performance on Monday, when he addressed a gathering of MPs. Even if he does win tomorrow, his victory will be a poor, weak thing.

Mr Redwood's supporters, who will now determine the outcome, are faced with an unappealing choice. On one side is the man who they believe lost them the last election, whose stance on Europe is unacceptable and who despises them and their views. Moreover, Mr Clarke is by nature lazy; and the task before the new leader demands not only new thinking, which is anathema to the former Chancellor, but also a relentless and energetic rebuilding of the party and its structures. If there is one thing that Mr Clarke hates more than dining with a group of Eurosceptics, it is eating rubber chicken.

## ON THEIR BIKES

European agreement can come in only by bicycle

Euro summits make heavy politics. The meeting of European leaders that ended yesterday had the classic ingredients of Euro fudge. For everybody could claim to have won the serial caucus race, and so each had a prize. Summits are rounded off by symbolism as well as signatures to protocols. As the Commission President, Jacques Santer, said afterwards, echoing the Dodo to Alice: "There are no losers, only winners."

But the master symbol of this summit was the bicycle. The Mayor of Amsterdam's presentation of bicycles to the Prime Ministers and Presidents was a shrewd gimmick from the most cycle-friendly nation in Europe. With more than one bicycle a head of population and not a hill in sight Amsterdam is a city that runs on pedals even more than Oxford. The bike is ecologically friendly and demotic. Wary of hospital bills and bad publicity, the Mayor warned the statesmen of the hazards of canals. And the Dutch cycle frames were all of one size but strong enough to take the biggest political frames.

So yesterday's bicycle race of leading European statesmen made the parable as well as the photo opportunity of the summit. Tony Blair, who had earlier called for a change in gear to bring Europe closer to its citizens, was the first to cross the finishing line, pumping new Labour, new leg-power. The Dutch Premier, Wim Kok, and the

with a group of would-be local councillors. Yet Mr Clarke has guts and resilience. Trimming is not in his nature. By contrast, Mr Hague's views have moved even in the past week. If he were to win, he would start to suffer John Major's problems from day one. Both the Right and the Left would try to pull him in their direction, strengthened by his haziness of opinion. The Left would have more weight than might previously have been imagined, given Mr Clarke's strong showing. The Right, though, would still make up the majority of the party.

For that reason, it would be logical for Mr Hague to win tomorrow, since his position, such as it is, sits more comfortably with that of most MPs. But logic has flown from this contest. Some Redwoodites will be tempted to vote for Mr Clarke out of fury that Mr Hague persuaded the other right-wing candidates to desert their man. Given Mr Clarke's views on Europe, this would be a triumph of pique over principle. Whatever Mr Hague's inadequacies, his stance on the single currency is far more congenial to sceptics than that of his rival.

When MPs consider either man, they find a flurry of negatives obscuring the positives. Although there were originally six candidates in this contest, there was none obviously better than the others. Had there been, there might have been no need for a third ballot.

As it is, the race is still open. And even if Mr Clarke loses, he is likely to come a fairly close second. In that case, Mr Hague would have to offer him a big job — running the risk of Mr Clarke fostering divisions either in the Shadow Cabinet or, if he refuses the conditions of the offer, on the back benches. The Tories, as Mr Major discovered, have become almost ungovernable. One thing is sure: whichever man wins tomorrow will carry authority over only half his domain.

Sir, May I congratulate you for introducing electronic mail to your letters page. This will allow those of us in distant corners of the world, as well as distant corners of the UK, to comment on the news and issues, of the day.

Through reading the Internet version of the paper we may keep abreast of current affairs in the UK and around the world, yet our experiences of different cultures, political systems and socio-economic environments will, I believe, enhance the quality of debate in your letters page.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN POWERAKER,  
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e-mail to: [letters@the-times.co.uk](mailto:letters@the-times.co.uk)

## 'Shambles' of UK electoral law

From Professor Iain McLean and Professor R. J. Johnston

Sir, Your report on the important items in the Home Office in-tray ("Former Straw is on parole," June 12) is notable for what it omits. Jack Straw's responsibilities include the conduct of elections.

His predecessor, Michael Howard, promised the House of Commons (*Hansard*, June 14, 1995, p802) that he

would immediately initiate a wide-ranging review of the rules under which the Boundary Commissions operate when redrawing constituency boundaries, but as far as we have been able to discern nothing has been done. Perhaps it is in neither the in-tray nor the out-tray, but left to moulder in the lbow (let the blighters wait).

More important, the Labour Party's election manifesto included a pledge to hold a referendum on electoral reform within the lifetime of this Parliament. The Foreign Secretary has indicated in an interview in the *New Statesman* (June 13) that this occupies a low place on the Government's agenda, as does electoral reform for the European Parliament.

The UK's electoral law is a shambles, as we made clear in *Fixing the Boundaries*, 1995, edited by I. McLean and D. Butler. Putting it into effect should be a high-priority task for the Home Office once it has tested public opinion on the desirability of electoral reform to a more proportional system.

Yours sincerely,  
IAIN MCLEAN  
(University of Oxford),  
R. J. JOHNSTON  
(University of Bristol),  
Nuffield College, Oxford.  
June 13.

## Press freedom

From Mr Roy D. Roebuck

Sir, The Lord Chancellor's excuse (letter, June 14; see also letter, June 13) for the extraordinary press conference to which only "specialists" were admitted won't wash. The notion that proposed alterations to civil justice and legal aid, which are important to every citizen, should be communicated to the laity through some priesthood is unsatisfactory.

The danger inherent in restricting briefings to such favoured groups of reporters is that of "sweethearting": the provider of news is never embarrassed by the disclosure of information he wishes to keep secret, since the ethos of the group discourages individual initiative by reporters.

Further, if there are developments in the "confidential" discussions of "key Cabinet committees, concerned with the work of the Government's programme of constitutional reform", it is the job of reporters to discover them and not to wait with hands supinated for briefings from the Lord Chancellor. Still further, the proper way for the Government to announce officially any such developments is through a statement in the Commons.

I have the honour to remain,  
Sir, your obedient servant,  
ROY ROEBUCK  
(Labour MP for Harrow East,  
1966-70),  
12 Brookly Street, N1.  
June 15.

## Road use

From Mr Robert Blood

Sir, Charging road users for the length of time spent on the road might indeed encourage speeding (letter, June 11), but there is a straightforward solution, which I understand is already ready on some tolled motorways in the United States.

The ticket which a driver collects on entering the motorway is timestamped. If the driver gets to his exit too quickly (calculated by dividing the distance between entry and exit by the time taken to drive it) the authorities simply add a speeding fine to the toll levy.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT BLOOD,  
20 Delorne Street, W6.

## March of progress

From Dr Jonathan P. A. Poweraker

Sir, May I congratulate you for introducing electronic mail to your letters page. This will allow those of us in distant corners of the world, as well as distant corners of the UK, to comment on the news and issues, of the day.

Through reading the Internet version of the paper we may keep abreast of current affairs in the UK and around the world, yet our experiences of different cultures, political systems and socio-economic environments will, I believe, enhance the quality of debate in your letters page.

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Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: [letters@the-times.co.uk](mailto:letters@the-times.co.uk)

## Getting better?

From Mrs P. M. Macaulay

Sir, May we assume that, were "hotel" charges in hospitals to be introduced "in line with low-grade bed-and-breakfast" establishments (report, June 14), the quality of the food for patients would surely improve?

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICIA M. MACAULAY,  
29 South Parade,  
Summertown, Oxford.  
June 14.

## Alcopop ban

From Mrs Jennifer Leyland

Sir, I believe we should all commend the Co-op and Iceland for banning the sale of alcopops in their stores (report, June 14) and putting the health and safety of children before their profit-margins.

Yours faithfully,  
JENNIFER LEYLAND,  
Y Berth, Cllcain,  
Mold, Flintshire.  
June 15.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Rejection of plan for Stonehenge

From Lord Montagu of Beaulieu

Sir, Stonehenge deserves no less, nor do its visitors from all over the world. Yours faithfully,  
MONTAGU OF BEAULIEU  
(Chairman,  
English Heritage, 1984-92),  
Palace House,  
Beaulieu, Brockenhurst, Hampshire.  
June 16.

From Professor Maxwell Hutchinson, PRIBA

Sir, It is almost ten years since Lord Montagu, then Chairman of English Heritage, and I first met to discuss the future of Stonehenge. A visit to the standing stones was as depressing as it was uplifting. Traffic thundered by on two main roads and an eager throng of international tourists was forced to start their memorable pilgrimage in a shabby car park fit only to be hidden behind a decaying 1950s roadhouse.

We held an architectural competition for a new visitor centre whilst an independent report recommended the closure of the A344 and a tunnel for a sensitive section of the A303.

Years on, the Millennium Commission has rejected a carefully prepared and well considered application for the funds to implement this urgent scheme of preservation and enhancement, on the ground that it is "in competition with an awful lot of other projects" — like an ephemeral Ferris wheel, I assume. Tell that to the forebears fought.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN M. CALABRINI,  
10 Tonys Place, SW1.

## On the coat tails of new Labour

From Mr John M. Calabrini

Sir, My heart really warms to the fresh wind now sweeping through government circles in Westminster, with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, for instance refusing to don the traditional — and in today's climate needlessly ostentatious — tail-coat for his speech at the Mansion House dinner (report, June 13) and ministers generally preferring to be addressed by their surnames rather than their official titles.

I like to think that this is all part of a more honest and down-to-earth approach, from which our new Government will draw the necessary encouragement in its determination to eventually abolish hereditary seats in the House of Lords and the endless granting of knighthoods, other than in very special cases.

We should follow the example of the French, who, in carefully addressing everyone as "Monsieur" or "Madame", be it the President of the Republic or the poorest beggar on the Champs Elysées, are instinctively and solemnly acknowledging the *liberte et egalite* principles for which their forebears fought.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN M. CALABRINI,  
10 Tonys Place, SW1.

From Mr Julian Malins, QC

Sir, Given the reluctance of new Labour to wear evening dress and the evident rapport between the Prince of Wales and the Prime Minister (report, June 16), surely now is the time for His Royal Highness to design, with help from Savile Row, a replacement for "white tie" in time for the next millennium?

A new, formal, perhaps more colourful evening dress, to be inaugurated by the Prince of Wales and the Queen Mother on the last night of 1999, would be a great boost to the tailoring trade, as well as providing endless fun over the next 30 months.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN MALINS  
(Common Councilman,  
The Members' Room, Guildhall, EC2).  
June 16.

## Antique books

From Mr Nicholas J. Gardiner

Sir, I support Miss Germaine Greer's views upon the destruction of old books (article, June 10; letters, June 16), but would also like to praise the best of the antiquarian book trade who still preserve them.

I have collected 16th and 17th-century English printed books on a shoestring budget for some time. It is surprising that investors are reluctant to sign blank cheques for an enterprise that smacks of a lucky dip with most extravagant wrapping paper?

I understand at present the only known content is hot air; and that is causing problems.

Yours faithfully,  
LUCAS MELLINGER,  
60 Richmond Hill Court,  
Richmond, Surrey.  
June 16.

prime example of this. The geographical criteria employed by civil servants in assessing the awards did not make this distinction and London community projects, as a result, have missed out badly.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY BENNETT,

Chairman,  
Southwark Environment Trust,  
c/o 30 Grove Lane, Camberwell, SE5.  
June 16.

From Mr Lucas Mellinger

Sir, As nobody has decided what to put in the Greenwich millennium dome, is it surprising that investors are reluctant to sign blank cheques for an enterprise that smacks of a lucky dip with most extravagant wrapping paper?

I understand at present the only known content is hot air; and that is causing problems.

Yours faithfully,  
LUCAS MELLINGER,  
60 Richmond Hill Court,  
Richmond, Surrey.  
June 16.

## Thoughtful paws

From Mrs Elizabeth Watkins

Sir, If



## COURT CIRCULAR

**WINDSOR CASTLE**  
June 17: The Queen, with the Duke of Edinburgh, honoured Ascot Races with her presence today.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
June 17: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the Secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall (Sir John James).

**YORK HOUSE**  
**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
June 17: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, this morning opened the new Kennedy Institute building, Charing Cross Westminster Medical School, Aspasia Road, London WC1.

**Birthdays today**  
Mr James Bishop, writer, 68; Mr Michael Blakemore, film and television director, 69; Mr Ian Carmichael, actor, 77; Professor J.M. Connor, geneticist, 46; Mr Derek Deane, artistic director, English National Ballet, 44; Mr Carl de Winter, former secretary-general, Federation of British Artists, 63; Mr Peter Donohoe, pianist, 44; the Very Rev P.B. Francis, former Provost, St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, 44; Mr Ian Hargreaves, editor, *New Statesman & Society*, 46; Mrs Patricia Hutchinson, diplomat, 71; Mr Roy Jackson, former assistant general secretary, TUC, 69; Mr J. Kellie, Home master, Brentwood School, Essex, 52; General Sir Brian Kenny, 63; Sir Dennis Landau, former chief executive, Co-operative Wholesale Society; Sir Paul McCartney, musician, 55; Mr Paul Mayersberg, scriptwriter, 56; Miss Isabella Rossellini, actress, 45; Miss Delia Smith, cookery writer and broadcaster, 56.

**Royal engagements**  
The Prince of Wales will attend a reception at 8.00 to mark the occasion of the Eureka Ministerial Conference at the Banqueting House, Whitehall.

The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, will attend a council meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Kingbridge Road, 415.

The Duchess of Gloucester, accompanied by the Duke of Gloucester, will open *The Face of Denmark* exhibition at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 1 Queen Street, Edinburgh at 5.45; and will attend an evening preview of the Royal Highland Show, in aid of the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution, at the Royal Highland Centre, Inglisburn, Edinburgh at 7.00.

The Duke of Kent, President, will preside at the quarterly meeting of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, at 10.45; and as Royal Fellow, will attend the Royal Society's New Frontiers in Science exhibition, Carlton House Terrace, at 3.30.

**Baron Baker of Dorking**

The life barony conferred upon Mr Kenneth Wilfred Baker has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Baker of Dorking, of Iber in the County of East Sussex.

**BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000**

They talk of the glories of your kingdom and tell of your might, to make known to mankind your glorious deeds, the glorious memory of your kings. Psalm 145: 10-11

**BIRTHS**

**MASHFORD-SMITH** - On 14th June 1997 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to James and Katherine (née Mawson), a son, Nicholas Alexander, 3 lbs 10 oz.

**BOULTON** - Oliver, son of Linda (née Newell) and Marc, 12th June 1997 in London, weighing 7 lbs 10 oz, to all the staff in the maternity unit of the John Radcliffe Hospital.

**CLARK** - On June 15th at The Royal Free Hospital, London, Elizabeth to Beatrix (née Moran) and Mike, a bouncing baby girl.

**GUTHRIE** - On Wednesday 11th June to Heather (née Cooke-Adams) and David, a son, Christopher, 7 lbs 10 oz, a sister for Imogen and Jessica.

**LAWRENCE** - On May 19th at St Thomas' Hospital, London, Harriet (née Action-Stow) and James, a daughter, Daisy Olivia.

**MCNAUL** - On 16th June 1997, to Niamh (née Parker) and Charles, a daughter.

**PEARCE** - On June 14th at the Hospital of St John & St Elizabeth, West Dulwich, Bob and Maire a lovely daughter, Sophie Lucia, a sister for Alex.

**PEAT** - On June 16th 1997 to John and Linda (née Alliston) and Sophie, a son.

**PENNEY** - On 16th June 1997 to Alice (née Maxwell) and Mark, a daughter, Emma Angel.

**PETRE** - On 8th June 1997 to Juliet (née Southwell) and William, a son, Christopher Edward.

**POWELL** - On June 11th to John and Linda (née Crowley) and Sophie, a daughter, Alexandra Louise.

**REEDLEY** - On June 16th, to Alan (née Husband) and Mart, a son, Christopher.

**WINTERSTEIN** - On 2nd May 1997 at Caroline (née Hodge) and Mark, a son, Harry Oliver James.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**BENTLEY** - David, Ruth and the family of the late Carolyn Bentley wish to thank all those who sent letters, cards and expressions of sympathy following the death of Carolyn. Thanks also to those who attended the funeral and sent donations for the Children Fund in her memory. Please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of their sincere gratitude.

**Haileybury**

The following awards have been made:

**Lower School Awards**  
Lower School Scholarships: Evan Primary School; Robert Miller, Haslewood High School; Hoddesdon Birrell and Sheep, Haslewood J.M. Smith, Haslewood.

**Lower Sixth Awards**

Academic Scholarships: Chloe Edwards, St Mary's School, Cheltenham; Anna Maria, South Hampstead High School; Victoria Huxter, South Hampstead High School; Julia Phillips, Oakham School; Elizabeth, St Nicholas School, Old Harrow.

**Academic and Art Scholarships**: Anna, South Hampstead High School.

**Major Music Scholarship**: Sophie Woodcock, St Christopher's School, Bahrain.

**Music Scholarships**: All Rounder Scholarships: Kieran, St Edmund's College, Ware.

**All Rounder Awards**: Claire Bowen, Simon Langton Grammar School, Canterbury; Karen, St Edmund's School, Ware; Eleanor Rockford, St Francis' College.

**13+ Scholarships**

**Major Academic Scholarships**: Huw Davies, Cranbourne Junior School and Haileybury.

**The Roy Dore Scholarships**: School of Performing Arts, Adwick-by-the-Sea.

**Academic Scholarships**: Richard Dimock, Aldeburgh School, Apperton, St John's School, Hailsham; Duncombe School and Haileybury.

**Music & Art Scholarships**: Edward Kleinf, Lichfield House School, Powys.

**Music Scholarships**: Carlos Josephine, Lichfield House School; James Spake, Heath Mount School; Watson-Astoe, Max Munday, St Edmund's School, Shrewsbury Park School, St Albans.

**All Rounder Awards**: James Battersby, St Anselm's, Bakewell; Mark Connolly, Haileybury Junior School; Simon Langton Grammar School, Canterbury; Kingshott School, Hitchin; Nicholas Smith, Lockers Park School, Hemel Hempstead; Robert Yule, Lockers Park School, Hemel Hempstead.

**Other Scholarships**: Carlos Josephine, Lichfield House School; James Spake, Heath Mount School; Watson-Astoe, Max Munday, St Edmund's School, Shrewsbury Park School, St Albans.

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## OBITUARIES

## LORD BANKS

**Lord Banks, CBE,**  
former President of the  
Liberal Party, died on  
June 15 aged 78. He was  
born on October 23, 1918.

For more than 60 years Desmond Banks served the Liberal cause in good times and bad (mostly bad), losing his deposits as parliamentary candidate but never his hope, and surviving a series of incapacitating strokes to relish the news on May 2 that the Liberal Democrats had at last won 46 seats. He had become a Liberal while still in the sixth form and had served under six party leaders from Sir Archibald Sinclair (later Viscount Thurso) to Paddy Ashdown, beginning as a canvasser and progressing by way of the party presidency and chairmanship to become a Liberal spokesman in the House of Lords.

Desmond Anderson Harvie Banks was born at Ascot where his father was serving in the Royal Air Force, but the family soon returned to Scotland. Although he spent only six years there Banks remained sturdily and romantically attached to Scotland for the rest of his life.

His ancestry was all Scottish — country doctors, Presbyterian ministers and West of Scotland businessmen — and it was entirely in character when Banks was appointed an Elder in the Presbyterian Church in England, later becoming an Elder of the United Reformed Church at his home in Kenton.

Banks was educated at Alphey Preparatory School, Harrow, and at University College School, Hampstead. It was there that he became a convinced Liberal. When he left he moved immediately into the Young Liberal movement and precociously became secretary of Kenton Liberal Association. He worked for a time for both Harrods and the Heinz organisation on the sales side but just before the war his father invented a new and profitable laundry machine and Banks promptly joined him.

When war broke out Banks



volunteered for the King's Royal Rifle Corps and after serving as a rifleman was commissioned in the Royal Artillery as an anti-tank officer. He had a much travelled army career — he served in Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and eventually Italy — and ended as chief allied public relations officer in Trieste. It was a time of extreme tension with Yugoslavia over the future of the Venezia Giulia region of Italy,

and the complexities of the case and the manoeuvrings for position may well have come back to him when his party negotiated with the Social Democrats in the 1980s. He enjoyed his Army service and for most of his life wore the smartly trimmed moustache and brushed-back hair of a typical gunner officer.

On demobilisation he rejoined his father's firm but soon forsook it for a full-time post with the Liberal Party

staff. He left there in 1950, the year he fought his first parliamentary election, standing for Harrow East. It was also the year that Lloyd's controversially insured Liberals against lost deposits and found it had to pay out on considerably more than 400. Banks was one of them. He did little better at the general elections in St Ives in 1955 and South West Herts in 1959, coming third each time. But as his attempts at a Commons career floundered

his professional life flourished. He became a successful life assurance broker and one of the City's leading pensions consultants. His expertise was acknowledged in the House of Lords — he was created a life peer in 1974 — when successive ministers admitted that he knew more about the subject than they did. He never attempted to be a glamorous figure in the Upper House but was quietly effective as spokesman for social security and social services. He was also Deputy Liberal Chief Whip from 1977 to 1983. Banks had been appointed CBE in 1972.

Few people served the Liberal Party more consistently. He was chairman of the party executive twice — 1961-63 and 1969-70 — and Liberal President in 1968-69. He was chairman of Liberal summer schools and chairman of the Liberal European Action Group. Apart from his party he also did a great deal for the European cause.

He made his position clear about liberalism. When he became chairman he said: "I am a leftist Liberal and I believe the State has an important role to play." In the 1950s he helped to form the Radical Reform Group when he feared his party might move too far to the right.

Although he never strove for laughs at his public speeches, he was a man of considerable humour in private conversation. He loved Gilbert and Sullivan operas as well as first-class cricket. But his lifelong enthusiasm was for Clyde river steamers; his first fascination with them came as a small boy in Scotland and it never left him. He wrote a book called simply *Clyde Steamers* and nobody was more surprised than he when the first edition sold out and more had to be printed.

He was married to Barbara Wells, who had been a small girl in the Sunday school where he taught in the late 1930s. When he came back from the war they met again and were married in 1948. She survives him with their two sons.

## EMILIO COIA

**Emilio Coia, caricaturist and art critic, died on June 17 aged 86. He was born on April 13, 1911.**

DOWN the years, in London before the war and at the Edinburgh Festivals after it, Emilio Coia built through his caricatures a quirky artistic record of his times. His pen was more often affectionate than cruel but from time to time his subjects fell out with him, perhaps the inevitable fate of any caricaturist.

Born in Glasgow, where his father Giovanni kept ice-cream parlours, Emilio Coia was of that Italian stock which has done so much to enrich Scottish life. He was educated at St Mungo's Academy and Glasgow School of Art. A strikingly handsome youth, he persuaded the art school to add to its annual contest for the most beautiful female student one for the equivalent male, which he duly won.

His parents strongly disapproved when he fell in love with and married a fellow student who was a Protestant. The couple eloped to London where they lived in some poverty but were befriended by Catherine Carswell, novelist, biographer of Burns and friend of the Arts Council.

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without protest, were Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Daniel Barenboim and Herbert von Karajan. Yehudi Menuhin paid him generous tribute: "Coia is every musician's favourite caricaturist." He praised his brilliant sense of humour but also his great sense of compassion, tragedy and concern".

To his festival outings he added to Scotland and, after a spell in the show trade in Kilmarnock, returned to Glasgow and resumed his career as a newspaper caricaturist. Alastair Dunnin, Editor of *The Scotsman*, commissioned him to illustrate the paper's coverage of the Edinburgh Festivals, a task he continued until last year.

Among his many celebrated subjects only one gave him serious trouble — in 1984 the dancer Nureyev snatched his pad from him as he sketched him in rehearsal and tore it up. Among those he drew,

He was a noted figure in the Glasgow Art Club, to which he was devoted and of which he was thrice president. And, with his extensive collection of bright silk ties, he was always among the more elegant and dashing residents of Glasgow's West End.

His wife Marie died in 1978. He is survived by his son.

## JAMES ASMAN

James Asman made a huge contribution to the popularity of the music. He began by promoting concerts and producing the revival's first recordings in association with Bill Kinnell and the Jazz Appreciation Society.

Asman championed in particular the series of discs made by George Webb's Dixielanders, which firmly established the renaissance. He founded and published the magazine *Jazz Records*, in Nottingham, his birthplace, providing critiques and reviews for close on 50 years; he had columns in the *Daily Mirror*, *Melody Maker*, *Poplife*, *New Musical Express* and *Jazz Journal International*, and wrote the sleeve notes of many an original LP issue.

James Asman's Record Centre

He lectured on early jazz and gave record recitals, illuminating each spin in minutest detail, an aficionado of musicians as diverse as the hot novelty orchestra Ollie Powers' Harmony Syncopators (issued on Asman's then own record label, Jazz), and the pioneer New Orleans drummer Baby Dodds.

James Asman's Record Centre



From left, James Asman, the trumpeter Ken Colyer and the clarinetist George Lewis

A burly, goated, pipe-smoking romantic who spoke his mind bluntly with a distinct northern accent, he could be brusque, but there was a mellow, kind heart deep inside which was never more warmed than when its owner was ensconced in a London jazz club, engrossed in the tickling over of a good band, accompanied by his accustomed glass of whisky and soda, a bowlful of tobacco and a panettone cigar which alternated continuously, day in day out. There was a distinct and elite aura of instinctive know-how about him.

In retirement, though by no means rich, Asman kept up

his interest in jazz and became something of a charming elder statesman and a kind of "telephonic clearing house" for musicians leaving messages for each other. He was uncomplex, and ended each call with "Right, Pops." Asked in a recent radio interview what he considered the

best thing in life, he slowly replied: "An annual plate of roast beef at Simpson's-in-the-Strand."

His health had become shaky in the past year, but he managed to attend the 450-strong photograph session last summer on the occasion of *A Swinging Day in Soho*, and

up to a month ago he was often seen among the young celebrity crowd who frequent the Trinity Arms, a jazz pub in London SE1. After hearing a particularly effusive drum solo on his final outing there, Jim's booming voice rang out to the drummer: "That was better out than in, Pops."

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## FLATSHARE

HACKNEY W10 8EJ — one bedroom, 4 bed bms with 2 eiders, nr tube, £1350 per sht, 0171 266 6445.

## DOMESTIC &amp; CATERING SITUATIONS

## RESIDENT WORKING HOUSEKEEPER/COOK

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When millennium fever strikes, reason goes on holiday

## Extraterrestrials do not deserve equal time

**B**ritain is blessed with a superabundance of protection from films or television programmes that could do harm. But when something comes along that really deserves censure, where are our moral guardians? Pratting away about taste, decency and whether Sue Lawley was too rude to Michael Heseltine.

I wouldn't have thought ITV would stoop so low as *Strange but True? Live*, scheduled for June 27. Perhaps the 50th anniversary of the first sighting of an unidentified flying object deserves a whole themed week on Britain's biggest commercial channel, even if the event is not quite in the league with the half-century of India's independence — a milestone the ITV network is managing to ignore.

Speculations on whether UFOs have landed on Earth do not merit the status of an open question. But that is what they will get on June 27, courtesy of ITV.

*Strange But True? Live*, made by LWT, will ask in the important manner of ITV's January debate on the future of the monarchy: "Have we been visited by aliens? The nation decides in the biggest-ever live extraterrestrial vote."

It is the word "decides" that I call to the attention of the Independent Television Commission and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission. A debate is supposed to deal with matters of opinion: abortion, banzaiing the motorcar in cities, foxhunting. Some media pundits saw new vistas of democratic expression opened up by the rowdy monarchy debate. I was not among the enthusiasts, but I have no difficulty in seeing the entertainment possibilities of the instant television poll. Should convicted murderers be beheaded? Should there be a £250 million millennium dome at Greenwich? Let's take a vote. It's such fun.

But ITV's extraterrestrial debate goes beyond fun. It will do a public disservice by treating scientific evidence as just another form of belief. Its panel of "experts" will have, on the one hand, two scientists and an academic psychologist, and three "believers" on the other. Viewers will then be asked to say, according to LWT's handout, "If UFOs really have landed on Earth... Vox populi cannot decide matters of fact. If only it could."

On extraterrestrials, my mind is open — as open as that of Alan Hale, the astronomer of Hale-Bopp fame, who says there may be advanced alien races out there, but if so, where are they? Rather than allowing themselves to be identified only by third parties who see "lights" or "things in the sky", they ought to make themselves visible. They could even appear on ITV's panel. Now that's my idea of equal balance.



BRENDA MADDOX

It is ironic that ITV's week *Into the Unknown*, which begins on Friday with *Predictions*, pitting psychics, astrologers and clairvoyants against punters, coincides with yet another 50th anniversary. The Association of British Science Writers, honoured last night at the Royal Society, was founded in 1947 on the assumption that science was becoming news as never before. That assumption was not wrong. Science is now a bestselling topic, as will be celebrated tomorrow night at the Science Museum when the Rhône-Poulenc Prize for the science book of the year will be chosen.

Yet what are all these writing efforts worth in the face of millennium fever, when reason takes a holiday and democratic values are called upon to demand equal time for unreason? You have your beliefs. I have mine, so the voguish philosophy goes, and they must be equally respected. Anyone who argues that science does not deal in real facts about the real world should be willing to get out and walk at 33,000ft. But anyone who believes that science is just one point of view among many should never get into an aeroplane at all.

ITV neglects serious science. The BBC, with its Science Unit, leaves it standing. The BBC cannot ignore the audience's insatiable appetite for the paranormal, but it panders to it without losing its head. In July, conveniently following ITV's alien orgy, the BBC is offering *A Weekend in Mars*, to celebrate something nearly as interesting as a UFO sighting: the landing on Mars of NASA's Pathfinder probe. Clive Anderson will be on hand to joke about little green men, but all the publicity is emphasising that "life" does not mean men or anything that resembles men. Not a psychic will be in sight, nobody more otherworldly than Patrick Moore.

**I**T is so keen on the paranormal, all the same, it might call in some clairvoyants and astrologists to predict whether Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada, will get his wish to make ITV one big network. Mr Robinson was not consulting the stars when he made his wish, just looking at the third channel's falling, ageing audiences. Perhaps ITV should stage one of those big televised debates. Should ITV be allowed to abandon any pretence of public-service broadcasting and leave all the heavy stuff to the BBC? Here's a follow-up question. Are British students up to Western European and Far Eastern standards in mathematics and science? There are two ways to get the answer. Have a debate on television and let the nation decide. Or look at the evidence.

## The Client's Story

All the glory, or the blame, goes to the creatives and the agencies when a new advert appears. But what of the person who bought the ad, the person who said yes, the person with nerves of steel, the person who crossed his fingers and signed the cheque?

### LISTERINE MOUTHWASH

**THE CLIENT**  
Lesley McCaig, 30,  
group product manager,  
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**WHAT OTHER CAMPAIGNS HAVE YOU BOUGHT?**  
*Actived, Sudafed, Ray-Ban sunglasses.*

**THE PRODUCT**  
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**THE AGENCY**  
J. Walter Thompson.

**WHAT'S THE PLOT?**  
It's based around the myth of the Tooth Fairy. But this one visits adults, not kids, and is very disappointed to find he is out of a job because Listerine ensures healthy teeth and gums.

**WHAT'S THE STRATEGY?**  
That tooth brushing will do a good job cleaning teeth but won't get rid of all the bacteria.

**WAS THE AD EXPENSIVE?**  
Yes. All told, probably £500,000.

**AT HOW IS IT AIMED?**

18 to 34-year-old ABC1 men and women. It's slightly female orientated — they buy more household toiletries.

**HOW WAS THE ADVERT FILMED?**  
The Tooth Fairy was filmed against a blue screen. We used live maggots to simulate the movements of the wriggling bacteria on the teeth.

**WHAT SOLD THE SCRIPT TO YOU?**  
We'd been looking at our campaigns in Europe and America to find a character to replace Clifford. We tested this idea against a script



Keith Allen (Martin Chuzzlewit) finds himself hanging in a harness as the Listerine "Tooth Fairy"

which showed people being pulled back into the bathroom by animated shower curtains because they forgot to use Listerine. The Tooth Fairy brought a frankly rather boring story alive.

**WHAT'S THE BEST AD YOU'VE EVER BOUGHT?**  
This one.

**AND THE WORST?**  
An Actived ad about eight years ago. We made an attempt to tackle the taboo of coughing on screen. The ad was shot from the perspective of someone who was coughing. People around him were repulsed. So were the viewers.

**DAVID MCGRATH**

## Magazine that packs a punch

Punch has gone for the 'laddish' market, reports Bridget Harrison

ONCE famed for its place in dentists' waiting rooms and Middle England sitting rooms, *Punch* is at last shedding an image that has seen it in decline since 1947. The magazine has been transformed from an attractive glossy with pastel cartoons and dated articles into a gripping read, filled with photographs, gossip, jokes and spoof columns.

A complete overhaul of *Punch* was undertaken by its Editor, Paul Spike, who left *GQ* to join the magazine in February.

"I am hoping to reach a generation who are already buying magazines like *Loaded* and *GQ*. It may be sad, but the traditional *Punch*'s time has come and gone."

The proprietor, Mohamed Al Fayed who has already lost an estimated £13 million on the magazine since its relaunch last year, is likely to have swallowed the bitter pill of commercialism and realised also that the traditional *Punch* could never make money. Instead, a move down-market, dropping the price from £1.75 to £1, using cheaper paper and contents emulating *Loaded* rather than *The New Yorker*, was the only way to shift *Punch* from the stands.

Startlingly, *Punch* is now a very good read — if you like celebrity gossip and rowdy humour. It contains more investigative articles and fewer commentaries. This week's issue, on the stands today, includes a feature investigating ridiculous allegations of a connection between the Mafia and the Duke of Kemi.

The magazine's satire has also hardened and been significantly



Today's issue features the Mafia

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# THE TIMES



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TODAY



## BUSINESS

Not just getting even,  
but getting rich,  
at work in the US  
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TELEVISION  
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

# Balloting over union dues to be scrapped

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is to scrap legal requirements to ballot trade union members on continuing to pay union dues through check-off — employers taking union subscriptions directly from wage packets.

The move, which will be warmly welcomed by Britain's trade unions, marks a movement back towards the "beer and sandwiches" relationship between union barons and the Labour leadership that existed in the 1960s and 1970s. This took a jolt after Tony Blair took power, when the Confederation of British Industry was invited for talks at 10 Downing Street ahead of the Trades Union Congress.

Ministers are expected shortly to announce that the rebalotting on check-off which is due this summer under 1993 legislation passed by the previous Conservative Government is to be scrapped.

Many businesses and trade unions had already begun to prepare themselves for a new round of balloting on union subscriptions. Scrapping the requirement will save companies and unions considerable amounts of money, since employers have in the past funded facilities for unions to mount dues retention campaigns in order to preserve stable employee relations.

Trade union leaders denied the prospect of the Government making union recogni-

tion a statutory requirement in Labour's first legislative programme, have been lobbying ministers hard on the question of check-off, insisting that the requirement be scrapped before large amounts of money were spent on a new campaign.

Scraping compulsory check-off rebalotting is a significant victory for the trade unions. The original aim of the requirement was to try to reduce trade union membership and power, but Whitehall officials have now advised ministers that the change does not need primary legislation, but can be achieved by means of passing regulations.

As Acas announced that for the first time it had handled more than 100,000 employment rights cases in a single year, it emerged that the service is preparing plans for a new, more informal system to handle work complaints such as dismissals in addition to the long-established industrial tribunals.

Tribunals have been criticised for being too slow and legalistic, and under plans brought forward by the last Government but which Labour is standing by, Acas is preparing a new scheme of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) that would not be bound by legal precedent and case law but which would, like conciliation in collective union disputes, deal with each individual row on a case-by-case basis.



## HOMES

Estate agents  
set out to improve  
their image  
**PAGES 37**



## SPORT

Lions in rampant  
form before  
first international  
**PAGES 42-48**



Sam Chisholm, left, and David Chance, whose departures from BSkyB have surprised the television industry

## Chisholm and Chance leave BSkyB

By ERIC REGULY

THE television industry was rocked yesterday by the surprise resignations of Sam Chisholm and David Chance, the top two executives of BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that has become one of Britain's 20 biggest companies.

Mr Chisholm, 57, chief executive and managing director, said he was leaving for health reasons. He suffers from asthma and was not sure he has the energy to take BSkyB through

its next phase of growth. BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, is to launch 200 digital channels next year.

He said: "Running BSkyB has been a most wonderful experience and very stimulating, but it has also been very demanding ... My doctors have advised me that I should not take on the next stage of BSkyB's development."

Rupert Murdoch, a BSkyB director and chairman of The News Corporation, said: "Sam

Chisholm is unquestionably one of the best executives I have ever worked with. I'm really sorry he has to step down."

Shares in BSkyB fell 21½ p, to 566½ p, on fears that its growth might not be sustained without Mr Chisholm and Mr Chance.

Mr Chance, 40, deputy managing director, was offered the chief executive's title about two weeks ago, but said that he did not want to be considered for it.

Mr Chance joined Sky in 1989, a year before its merger

with British Satellite Broadcasting. He has a stomach ulcer and did not feel that he could stay a full-time employee for several more years.

Mr Chance will become a consultant to BSkyB when he leaves office in January. Mr Chisholm will stay a director.

Mr Chisholm is to be succeeded by Mark Booth, 40, chief operating officer of JSkyB, News Corp's satellite TV venture in Japan.

Bulldog grip, page 29

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4682.2	(-32.9)
Yield	3.51%	
FTSE All share	2225.32	(-24.35)
Nikkei	20593.66	(-87.41)
New York		
Dow Jones	7783.35	(+21.29)
S&P Composite	885.46	(+1.56)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.6%)
Long Bond	98.75	(95.71)
Yield	6.71%	(6.69%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6.5%	(6.5%)
Libor long gilt future (Sep)	1141s	(1141s)

STERLING

New York	1.6388s	(1.6373)
London	1.6388	(1.6383)
DM	2.8388	(2.8333)
FF	9.5900	(9.5858)
SP	2.2114	(2.2095)
Yen	185.50	(185.50)
S Index	100.2	(102.3)

£ DOLLAR

London	1.7340*	(1.7310)
DM	1.8500*	(1.8335)
FF	5.8500*	(5.8335)
SP	1.4487*	(1.4425)
Yen	111.00	(111.00)
S Index	102.8	(102.5)

Tokyo close Yen 112.38

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep) \$16.82 (\$16.05)

GOLD

London close £342.15 (\$342.05)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Electricity watchdog accused over levy

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE electricity watchdog has been attacked for failing to ensure that industrial customers get lower prices.

The lower prices have been made possible by the cut in the levy that had largely supported the nuclear industry.

A survey of electricity prices by National Utility Services revealed that not all companies have passed on the benefits of the levy which has fallen from 10 per cent of a bill to 2.2 per cent.

As the windfall tax looms, the move will be seen as an attempt by some businesses to retain extra profits at the expense of customers locked into fixed price contracts.

Andrew Johns, National Utility Services director, said: "Offer is failing to protect consumers' interests by not becoming involved with this issue."

Yorkshire Electricity and Eastern — two companies that have not passed on the reduction in fixed price consumers — said such contracts gave each side of the deal upside and downside and that customers recognise the benefits. A spokeswoman for Offer said the regulator was unable to intervene in contracts between two parties.

In the 15 country survey of prices in the UK was the ninth most expensive after prices fell by an average of 7.4 per cent this year.

Commentary, page 27

## GrandMet stake for LVMH

LVMH, the French drinks group run by Bernard Arnault, a non-executive director of Guinness, yesterday posed another challenge to the £23 billion merger between Guinness and Grand Metropolitan when it spent £27 million to pick up a quarter per cent stake in GrandMet (Alasdair Murray writes).

LVMH insisted that it had no intention of making a bid for the British spirits company. However, it is expected to use its new stake to present a case for a merger of the spirits businesses of all three companies to other shareholders.

The French drinks and luxury goods company already owns a 14.2 per cent stake in Guinness and Bernard Arnault, chairman, has made clear his opposition to the planned merger.

LVMH is also seeking to activate a clause in a control clause that would allow the company to assume ownership of a number of important joint venture agreements with Guinness at a nominal cost.

## Share prices sent tumbling by corporate tax speculation

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE stock market suffered its worst fall under this Government as speculation increased that Gordon Brown intends to hit the corporate sector with tax rises in the Budget on July 2. The FTSE 100 index fell 62.9 points to close at 4,682.2 with the market dogged by worries that Labour will move to phase out dividend tax credits. The market also suffered after stronger than expected industrial production figures sent the Dow Jones industrial average down 40.26 points to 7,731.83 by luncheon on Wall Street.

However, the pound rushed to hit a post-ERM midday high against the mark of DM2.8429, benefiting from continuing mark weakness after the con-

fusion of the Amsterdam summit yesterday. Sterling closed up half a pfenning to DM2.8388, with traders predicting it could rise further as Budget speculation pointed towards rates rises.

Data showing the public sector borrowing requirement jumping to £3.95 billion in May, compared with City expectations of a £3 billion deficit, failed to move the markets. Economists blamed the worse than expected deficit on a decline in tax receipts, which fell 3.6 per cent compared with May last year. VAT receipts fell 11 per cent because of the new system of large companies paying VAT on a quarterly basis. But core

government spending fell 1.3 per cent on an annual basis and economists said the PSBR remains on a downward trend. Revenues are expected to accelerate throughout the year and the City believes the PSBR will come in below the government forecast of £18 billion.

The markets are now awaiting the National Audit Office report on government finances, due tomorrow. Most economists believe Mr Brown will use the report to justify tax rises to deal with projections of a "structural" overshoot in borrowing despite the improvement in underlying PSBR.

Commentary, page 27

Anthony Harris, page 29

## Mirror Group in bid talks with Midland press group

By ERIC REGULY

MIRROR GROUP is considering making a bid for Midland Independent Newspapers, the owner of *The Birmingham Post*, that may value MIN at more than £250 million.

MIN yesterday confirmed bid talks after its shares rose sharply, closing at 179p, up 30p. The market expects a bid at 200p, valuing MIN at more than £250 million.

A bidding war looks unlikely. Jim Brown, chairman of Newsquest, the American company that bought Westminster Press from Pearson last year, said: "It's too expensive for us."

Almost every regional newspaper group has evaluated MIN, whose shares have rarely exceeded their 1994 flotation price of 140p. The Telegraph Group, owner of *The Daily Telegraph*, has also viewed it.

MIN's chief executive is Chris Oakley, who said its talks with Mirror Group "may or may not lead to an offer". A decision will probably be made within two weeks.

Although Mirror Group, linked with Independent Newspapers of Ireland, last year to bid for Westminster Press, its renewed interest in newspapers is a surprise. It has since been pursuing television deals and launched Birmingham Live, a local cable TV channel with MIN.

Tempus, page 28

## Bakyrchik Gold digs for cash as shares are halted

By PAUL DURMAN

BAKYRCHIK GOLD, a company that seems to have spent more time looking for money from investors than it has producing gold, has hit the latest in a long line of cash crises.

Investors were trapped in Bakyrchik's shares yesterday when the company suspended stock mar-

ket dealings while it went in search of "short-term financing". Bill Smith, the company's adviser at RBC Dominion Securities, said this move was made necessary by the volatility of the share price on Monday.

Bakyrchik came to the stock market four years ago with plans to develop a ten million ounce mine in Kazakhstan, a little developed part of

the former Soviet Union. The two founder shareholders bailed out at a substantial profit within a year. Since then, the shares have roller-coastered between 589p and the all-time low of 83p reached on Monday.

A likely explanation for the latest difficulties is that Bakyrchik is struggling to find the second of four \$15 million payments it must make to the

Kazakh Government. This follows a deal last December that allows Bakyrchik to increase its interest in the mine from 40 to 85 per cent. Yesterday it said: "If agreement is reached on the short-term financing, this is likely to result in... a proposal for the restructuring of [the company's] ownership of the Bakyrchik mine." Mr Smith was unable to

clarify this or to explain what would happen if Bakyrchik could not pay Kazakhstan.

Robert Friedland, the Canadian who has twice rescued Bakyrchik in the last two years, recently resigned from the company's board. His Indochina Goldfields owns 27.9 per cent of Bakyrchik and his support may prove critical.

Morse Computer Systems for the Enterprise.

By MORSE

Computer Systems for the Enterprise.

Payout rises 22% as watchdog gives dividend warning

## Thames may challenge windfall tax



Clarke: defended payout

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THAMES WATER yesterday raised the prospect of challenging "an excessive" windfall tax while provoking fresh concern over its profits and dividend payouts. The utility also said that customers faced water restrictions within weeks because of poor rainfall.

Although the company said that it was prepared to accept a windfall levy, David Luffrurn, finance director, said that if the tax is far in excess of the £3 billion earmarked by the Gov-

ernment for its youth employment programme and if it is not spread widely, Thames could consider a challenge.

Mr Luffrurn said: "We've heard estimates between £3 billion and £5 billion. If it were more than £5 billion, it could be excessive."

In a letter to the Treasury, Thames said that it "sincerely hopes that the nature, scale and method of distribution of the national levy is such that we are not obliged to challenge the imposition on Thames in the courts."

Sir Bob Clarke, chairman of

Thames, which raised its pre-tax profits before exceptionalities by 19 per cent, ran into controversy over its dividend, which rose by 22 per cent. The announcement of it came as Ian Byatt, the water regulator, said in his annual report that dividend payments should not be too high and should not deter investment. He said that he was "concerned that companies should fulfill their investment programmes and that unjustifiably high dividend increases do not undermine that".

Thames, which raised its

dividend, saying that only a quarter of the 22 per cent increase had been fuelled by the core utility business, with another quarter coming from the performance of non-core operations and the remaining half from effects of last year's share buyback.

Thames also gave investors hope that it would deliver fresh shareholder returns after the windfall tax by pledging to seek a fresh mandate for a buyback. However, the company, which has the worst leakage rate in the UK, would not detail any plans for

a return of value. Analysts expect it to opt for another share repurchase rather than a special dividend.

The last figures by Ofwat put Thames with a 38 per cent payout rate. This is now down to 30 per cent. Thames, which was last year hit by a £95 million charge to cover overseas losses, lifted pre-tax profits before exceptionalities to £384 million for the year to March 31. The total dividend was set at 34.4p, with the final 23.2p due on September 1.

Tempus, page 28

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Mackie to raise £5m after restatement

MACKIE, the troubled Belfast engineering company, is to raise over £5 million in a rights issue after a restatement of its accounts which show a pre-tax loss of £7.2 million for 1996, instead of the £400,000 loss it originally reported. Yesterday Sul Saitoza, the Mackie chief executive who ordered a re-examination of the company's books after he took up his post in March, said the loss was a result of exceptional charges totalling almost £6 million after a reassessment of the value of the stock of textile machines, debtors, creditors and the write-down of an investment in a Belgian company. The restatement included a downward revision for 1996 turnover from £17.7 million to £12.6 million.

Dealing in Mackie's shares were suspended on April 21 just before the company issued a warning that it might have to restate its results. Trading is expected to resume on July 3 after an extraordinary general meeting has an opportunity to vote on the proposed new rights issue under which existing shareholders will be offered new shares at 20p. Mackie's shares were suspended at 112p. The company also announced yesterday that Pat Dougan, former chief executive and more recently company chairman, has resigned from the board.

## West Bromwich ahead

THE West Bromwich Building Society, soon to be the twelfth largest in Britain, saw its profits rise by £4.8 million, to £21.3 million, in the year to March 31. The society, often the subject of merger speculation, restated its commitment to "the principles and practice of mutuality" and promised an enhanced package of mutuality benefits for savers and borrowers. The West Bromwich Albion Premier Saver Account; for fans of the West Bromwich Albion football club, now has 10,000 account holders, who have invested £17 million.

## Insurers in danger

THE Association of British Insurers (ABI) yesterday said that some direct insurers could go out of business. Industry profits fell to £3 billion last year from £4.3 billion in 1995. Low premium rates were at the root of the problem, but the ABI said the continuing competitive climate made large rate rises unlikely. Tony Baker, deputy director general, said that composite insurers could offset underwriting losses with other income but direct insurers are vulnerable. "They can't all survive," he said.

## Azlan's eight-week hope

CHRIS MARTIN, chief executive of Azlan, said the computer networking group hopes to resolve its accounting problems within eight weeks. Azlan has suspended its shares and Adrian Lamb, formerly finance director, has left its board, but is helping auditors to reconcile several accounts. Mr Martin said the problems, which came to light at audit, involved maintenance and "house-keeping" of Azlan's books. No money was missing, and Mr Martin does not expect Azlan to go into loss. He said it had not been decided whether Mr Lamb should leave Azlan.

## Logica wins outsourcing

LOGICA, the computer services group, will announce a £14 million outsourcing deal today, to run an electronic trading system for six UK insurers. The Polaris system, started in 1993, allows retail insurance brokers to compare prices and products quickly across the market for customers. The insurers behind the project are Royal & Sun Alliance, Commercial Union, Eagle Star, Norwich Union, Guardian and General Accident. At least £14 million will be paid out over seven years.

## Bowe pay plummets

THE salary of Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, fell almost £12,000 in the year to March 31, the accounts reveal. She earned £198,279, against £209,871 in 1996. A PIA spokeswoman said the fall was because of the non-recurrence of a £20,000 bonus paid the previous year, relating to the setting-up of the PIA in 1994. But for this, her salary would have shown a 4.4 per cent increase. Ms Bowe has indicated she is in the running to head the new City regulatory body being created by the Government.

## Colliery closure feared

THE future of Britain's first co-operative colliery is in danger because no prospective bidders have been found to save it. Brian Wilson, Scottish Office Minister, said the Government had scoured the world looking for possible saviours for Monktonhill Colliery, near Edinburgh, but had not found any. He said something would have to happen "very, very soon" to save the colliery. Receivers were appointed earlier this year. Half of the 300 miners used their redundancy payments to buy a stake in the mine when it faced closure 18 months ago.

## Poor typists prove costly

A SURVEY of keyboard users has concluded that businesses in the United Kingdom could be losing £20 billion a year because staff cannot type properly. The survey of 520 people was carried out by Dr David Lewis, a psychologist, for Solo, a voice-typing software company. The survey's findings showed that 75 per cent of keyboard users type at less than 65 words per minute and that this created an average annual cost to business of £3,840 for an employee spending four hours a day keyboarding.

## Special delivery

BUSINESS POST, the parcel and express mail carrier, declared a special dividend of 9p after increasing pre-tax profits 24 per cent to £61.6 million last year. Turnover rose from £65.5 million to £80.6 million. Neil Benson, chairman, said that this year's margins would be "substantially ahead" of the industry norm. The company is introducing a new next-day delivery service in London. A second interim dividend of 6.9p (5.7p) per share is due on July 1, making a total of 10.5p (8.7p) for the year.

## CWS hearing postponed for lawyers to hold talks

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TODAY'S hearing of the case brought by the Co-operative Wholesale Society against the men behind an aborted bid to take it over has been postponed to allow lawyers for both sides to meet for talks.

The CWS launched the private prosecution of Allan Green, a former executive, Andrew Regan, the 31-year-old entrepreneur who led the £1.2 billion bid, and his business partner, David Lyons, soon after the bid fell apart in late April. It accused Mr Green of theft of commercially sensitive documents, and Mr Regan

and Mr Lyons of aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the theft and handling stolen property.

Ian Burton, solicitor to Mr Regan, said that the postponement to July 3 had been agreed by all sides because no one was ready for the hearing. Other sources said that all the lawyers concerned will meet tomorrow to discuss issues including the admissibility of key items of evidence. The sources denied that the defence lawyers will today try to persuade the prosecution to drop the case.



Regan: led £1.2 billion bid

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sales
Australia \$	2.28	2.12
Austria Sch	20.87	18.93
Belgium Fr	6.46	5.92
Canada \$	2.285	2.205
Cyprus Cyp	0.881	0.814
Denmark Kr	11.24	10.51
Ecuador M	0.58	0.52
France Fr	0.98	0.927
Finland M	1.25	1.17
Germany Dm	2.58	2.76
Greece Dr	1.27	1.07
Hong Kong \$	13.40	12.27
Iceland Ikr	1.27	1.07
Israel Shk	5.90	5.25
Italy Lira	2340	2178
Japan Yen	159.40	147.10
Malta Lm	0.684	0.627
Netherlands Gld	3.589	3.021
New Zealand \$	2.32	2.20
Norway Kr	12.44	11.70
Portugal Esc	288.00	277.00
South Africa R	7.07	6.75
Spain Pes	250.00	220.00
Sweden Kr	13.45	12.42
Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.30
Turkey Lira	248.92	200.00
USA \$	1.735	1.601

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Principal Office  
PO Box 25, Craigforth  
Stirling FK9 4UE

NOTES:

- Any member entitled to vote at meetings of the Society is a "Voting Member" and is entitled to appoint another person to vote instead of him. A proxy who is not himself a Voting Member is not entitled to speak at the Special General Meeting except to demand or join in demanding a poll.
- Forms of proxy and the power of attorney, or other authority, if any, under which they are signed, or a notarially certified copy of such power or authority, should be deposited at the principal office of the Society, Craigforth, Stirling FK9 4TU not later than 11.00 am on 25 June 1997. The lodging of a form of proxy will not prevent a Voting Member from voting in person at the Special General Meeting, if he or she wishes to do so.
- It is important that Voting Members intending to vote personally bring with them to the Special General Meeting the letter accompanying their form of proxy or, failing that, details of their policy numbers and some means of identification. Holders of proxies should bring with them to the Special General Meeting details of the policy number(s) in respect of which they have been appointed proxy and some means of identification. On arrival at the Special General Meeting, please register with the officials who will be at the door. Registration will commence at 10.00 a.m.
- Copies of the Circular, the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society's Act 1976 and the regulations of the Society as proposed to be altered/replaced are available on application to the Society.

Scottish Amicable

to raise £5  
statement

Margaret Beckett cannot delay much longer. When she took over as President of the Board of Trade, a stack of reports from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was piled on her desk in need of prompt attention.

But the weeks have passed and still we await the presidential pronouncements on get-togethers for which the bans were called more than nine months ago.

Sir Ian Prosser and his team at Bass have not dared be parted from their mobile telephones for the past ten days, believing that any moment would bring tidings of Mrs Beckett's decision on their takeover of Carlsberg Tetley. Ferry operators, Stena and P&O, have also been in daily anticipation of winning the go ahead for the merger of their cross-Channel services.

Any hope that the benefits of such a merger might be seen during this summer have had to be abandoned: peak season is not the time for implementing big strategic changes in any business. All the same, the companies would appreciate being told whether their plans have won official approval and the City would welcome the first indications of quite what Mrs Beckett meant by her avowal that the sole criteria for judging mergers will be competition.

In fact, another criteria may impinge upon her thinking over the Stena/P&O deal. The colourfull competition supremo in Brussels

says, Karel Van Miert, has indicated that, with a few caveats, he is minded to allow the merged operation, which would be 60 per cent owned by P&O and 40 per cent by Stena.

Would the President really want to pick a fight with Brussels? Were she to decide to veto the merger, she could find herself heading to the European court, and a potential battle with Van Miert. Britain would surely want to be seen to be working with Europe in such matters.

The question of who finally determines competition policy is likely to arise in even more pointed fashion over the planned merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan. For the moment, the deal is not even being put under Mrs Beckett's scrutiny, going instead straight to the European authorities, although her interventionist tendencies are likely to come into play.

If GMG goes ahead, British jobs will vanish. How will that be viewed under all the important competition criteria? Jobs will undoubtedly go if Stena and P&O merge their cross-Channel operations: that is part of the aim. The companies argue that only by joining forces can they continue to mount a viable chal-

lenge to Eurotunnel, which now accounts for 40 per cent of tourist cross Channel traffic, about the same proportion that the two ferry operators share.

And they hint that if they can't join forces, they might just be forced to abandon the routes. Then what sort of competition will the tunnel face? And perhaps the thought that another fire should ever drive the Euro trains back into the sidings, but where will the freight turn then?

Perhaps weighing up such imponderables is keeping Mrs B from reaching a decision...

#### Bernard catches hotel fever

Elliott Bernard is on the hunt for more hotels. The chairman of Chelsfield, the property group, is said to be so delighted with the pair of former Forte establishments he purchased from Granada, that

## Will Beckett let Brussels win?

### COMMENTARY by our City Editor

he would like a few more before he floats off this part of his business into a separate company, a glamour stock in the making if ever there was one.

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he would like a few more before he floats off this part of his business into a separate company, a glamour stock in the making if ever there was one.

He is not restricting his search to the big cities. If there is a country house hotel to be had in close proximity to his Wentworth golf club, he would like to bring that into the group. Wentworth attracts vast numbers of visitors.

It grieves Mr Bernard to have to direct potential business elsewhere, as Wentworth regularly does with those in search of accommodation.

Cliveden would have been a perfect complement to Wentworth but, alas, the price is a trifle high for Mr Bernard's estimate of value, even allowing for the exotic history that accompanies the location of the famous meetings between Christine Keeler and her Russian friend.

It would make sense to put Wentworth and the hotels into a separate business, with a separate quote, and Bernard will eventually do just that. There is

no slow down, however, in the rate at which the rest of the business is growing. The Department of the Environment will soon have to pass judgment on whether to allow the company to go ahead with its major extension of the Merry Hill shopping centre near Dudley. Bored with waiting for a decision, Bernard has just slapped in an application for a further 100,000 sq ft of space there, this time for leisure development.

**Regulating regulators**

No doubt there will soon be a degree course in utility regulation but, in the meantime, our happy band of watchdogs are learning on the job, and continuing to find their work marked "could try harder".

Yesterday the electricity übermeister was, for the umpteenth time, accused of not doing his job properly. With water profits soaring and resources leaking, the monopoly water industry is clearly not a text book case of how it should be done either. Then there is gas: today we will see a muted compromise emerge from the ferocious battle

between Clare Spottiswoode and Transco.

But while it is easy to hold individuals up for blame what is really on trial at present — and what the new Government shows no signs of grasping — is the effectiveness of incentive regulation to govern a competitive market.

Regulators are hamstringing between cracking down on the spending projections of companies in order to exert pressure on prices, so risking seeing the infrastructure crumble, or swallowing too readily the companies' plea for cash, only to see the money pour out to investors.

A competitive market must be regulated and regulated toughly. It is not enough to hope the market will win out.

Labour had been hawkish in opposition over regulation. It now seems too willing to leave the tricky subject well alone.

#### Fat cat tax

BUDGET fever is gathering pace, as business tries to second guess what the new Chancellor may have in mind. But while public talk is all of dividend tax credits and stamp duty, what is really concerning many in the City is a growing fear that the new puritans in Government are desperately seeking a way to punish the fat cats without hurting those middle-range salary earners who voted them into power.

## Watson & Philip speed up shop plan

Watson & Philip, the convenience store group, has accelerated the opening programme for its Allday stores. It will open around 200 stores this year, taking the chain to about 725, with another 200 next year.

Pre-tax profit in the six months to April 27, after exceptionals, was £7.15 million (£6.7 million). Earnings per share were 11.3p (12p). The company will pay an interim dividend of 5.7p (5.3p) on August 1.

#### Group loss

Applied Holographics, the securities products group, recorded a loss of £240,000 (£176,000 profit) in the year to March 31. The loss per share was 0.91p (0.71p profit). There is no dividend.

#### Rixson up

Firth Rixson, the engineer, raised pre-tax profits from £3 million to £6.5 million in the six months to March 31. Earnings are 3.4p (1.4p) and the half-year dividend is doubled to 0.8p.

#### Wellman fall

Pre-tax profit at Wellman, the engineering contractor, halved to £5 million. Earnings fell from 5.7p to 2.4p. The total dividend rises 2.8 per cent to 1.85p.

#### Profit rise

Mountview Estates raised pre-tax profits from £7.9 million to £8.4 million in the year to March 31. Earnings rise from 11.5p to 12.5p. Total dividend rises from 7.7p to 42p.

#### Tinsley ahead

Tinsley Robor, the packaging group, raised pre-tax profits 30 per cent to £4.6 million in the year to March 31. Earnings rose 3.5 per cent to 8.8p. The total dividend rises 24 per cent to 2.8p.

## Harris says son merits Carpetright board seat

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LORD HARRIS of Peckham, chairman and chief executive of Carpetright, yesterday defended the decision to put his 28-year-old son, Martin Harris, on its main board.

Mr Harris, who joined the company in 1991, has been made responsible for advertising and marketing. Lord Harris said that the appointment was "a first step" for his son, but would not say whether he would eventually take over the running of the company.

Lord Harris denied that the company was slowing its expansion programme, saying that last year's record number of openings was an anomaly because of the launch of its larger Carpet Depot stores. The company plans 39 openings this year, against 65 last year. Capital spending this year will be less than half last year's £32.6 million.

A final dividend of 11.5p, due on September 15, makes a full-year 10p (14.5p).

Tempus, page 28



Lord Harris of Peckham with his son Martin

## Premier Farnell remains gloomy

BY PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Premier Farnell fell back to their recent low point as the electronic components distributor said that it had seen no pick-up in trading in its main catalogue businesses.

The shares eased 6p, to 457.5p, as the company said that there had been "no discernible change" in trading at its UK and US catalogue operations, which produce about two thirds of group sales.

Analysts said that the statement was in line with Premier Farnell's past comments and with what they learnt on a recent trip to the US and the UK.

Premier Farnell's shares crashed from almost 700p in January when the company shocked investors with a badly handled warning about weak markets in the US and the UK.

Malcolm Bates, chairman, told yesterday's annual meeting that the company was continuing to benefit from improvements on the Continent and in Australia, and that newer businesses in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong had started well.

## Hazlewood opts for convenience with £45m sale

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

HAZLEWOOD FOODS has sold its potato products business for £45 million to concentrate on developing its convenience food operations.

The sale of Fri D'Or, which operates in the Czech Republic and The Netherlands, to Danisco of Denmark, will cost Hazlewood about £3.5 million in earnings in the current year, which is similar to the cost of BSE to the company last year.

The cash from the sale will be used to invest in other operations and pay off debts, reducing gearing to 27 per cent. In the year to March, pre-tax profit including exceptionals was £32.3 million (£24 million).

The company will pay a final dividend of 4.5p (4.3p) on October 1, giving a total for the year of 6.9p (6.7p).

## Pound hits Eurotherm

EUROTHERM, the electronics company, blamed a 21 per cent dip in pre-tax profits on the strong pound, which wiped out earnings from overseas subsidiaries and sales.

In the half to April 30, pre-tax profits fell to £14.7 million, from £18.7 million. Earnings per share fell to 10.8p (13.4p). The dividend rises to 4.2p (4p).

## EMI to give investors £500m in bonus issue of new shares

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

the new Radiohead album released on Monday, fell 6p, to £11.61, with the City slightly disappointed that the repayment to shareholders is not cash.

The company said that the capital issue would be funded from increased borrowing, with the higher level of debt reducing the overall cost of capital within the group.

EMI will issue, on a one-for-one basis, special "B" shares redeemable by the company at

a value of 114.5p from July 22. EMI is also splitting its shares on a two-for-one basis to increase marketability, and every ten ordinary shares will then be consolidated into nine shares.

EMI separately spent £1.4 million on a buy-back of 120,000 shares at £11.70.

Deals in the new shares are expected to begin on July 18, provided that the plan receives approval at a special general meeting that day.

What the papers don't say.

What the radio doesn't let you hear.

What the other broadcasters don't let you see.

## Friendly HOTELS PLC

### 1996 RESULTS

HOTELS & CATERING (CONTINUING OPERATIONS)	
£'000	39,579
4,468	5.7p
10.7p	

RESULTS IN BRIEF

- The hotel division gave a good account of itself and improved both occupancy and average room rates achieved compared to the previous year, and these have been further enhanced in the current year to date. There is ample scope for further growth.
- The ten year Master Franchise Agreement with Choice Hotels International, signed in May 1996, is fundamental to our growth strategy and also resulted in Choice, one of the world's largest hotel operators, investing £10 million in Friendly to assist the construction and acquisition of ten hotels. Since signing the Master Franchise, a significant number of hotels have been added.
- The Group now consists of 56 properties with 4,007 rooms, of which 22 hotels with 1,322 rooms, are franchised. This compares with 30 hotels with 3,160 rooms, a year ago.
- Fully diluted net assets amount to 26p per ordinary share.
- We have greatly improved the professionalism and efficiency of our operations and management are encouraged with the appointment of a new Chief Executive and Finance Director. 1997 is off to a good start and should prove to be a successful year and lay the foundation for greater results in the years to come.



First Choice For Value

For a copy of the latest Report and Accounts please apply to the Secretary,  
Friendly Hotels PLC, Premier House, 10 Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SB

## Engels-Hollande Beleggings Trust N.V. (English and Dutch Investment Trust)

Established in Amsterdam

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Monday 30 June 1997 at 10.00 hours at the Le Meridien Apofin Hotel, Apofinlaan 2, Amsterdam.

Shareholders wishing to attend the General Meeting of the Company must deposit their shares not less than seven days before the Meeting with Stahl Bankers N.V., Lange Voorhout 8, 2501 CH Den Haag or with Royal Exchange Assurance, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3TG. A deposit certificate will be issued to such shareholders which, upon surrender, will entitle them to vote at the Meeting.

Holdings of shares registered with the Company in its Shareholder Register must inform the Board of Managing Directors in writing at least four days prior to the Meeting that they intend to attend the Meeting in person or by proxy.

Holders of Participation Certificates issued by Royal Exchange Assurance who wish to attend the Meeting must contact the Trustee Department of Royal Exchange Assurance, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3TG at least ten days before the Meeting.

Royal Exchange Assurance is prepared to issue a power of attorney for the same number of shares held in trust as the Certificateholders shall have deposited with Royal Exchange Assurance.

To the meeting shall be brought forward a proposal of the meeting of holders of priority shares aimed at an amendment of the company's articles of association (i.e. an increase of the company's authorized share capital). A copy of the proposal including the verbatim text of the proposed amendment is deposited as of today until the end of the meeting at the offices of the company for inspection by the shareholders and holders of depositary receipts and is available free of charge to shareholders and holders of depositary receipts.

Board of Management  
Engels-Hollande Beleggings Trust N.V.  
Wissestraat, 16 June 1997

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# London investors run for cover amid US concerns

**RENEWED** worries about a possible rise in US interest rates produced a sharp opening fall on Wall Street and sent investors in London scurrying for cover.

Traders in the Square Mile had been pondering the outcome of Friday's triple-witching hour, when traded options and futures contracts expire, and the expected changes to advance corporation tax when New York kicked in lower. This was prompted by the stronger than expected consumer price figures for May, hitting US Treasury bonds and fuelling fears that the economy was starting to overheat again.

In spite of closing above its worst of the day as the Dow Jones industrial average quickly moved back into positive territory, the FTSE 100 index was still left nursing a fall of 6.29 at 4,682.2 by the close. Turnover in London reached 854 million shares.

NatWest Bank had another volatile session in the wake of Monday's profits warning and the departure of Martin Owen, head of the investment banking arm. The shares touched 734½p before rallying to reduce the fall on the day to 9½p at 748½p. That stretches the deficit of the past two days to 5p. There is now growing speculation the group will cut back on its derivatives and eurobond sales operations. By the close, almost 13 million shares had changed hands.

HSBC fell 45p to £18.45. Lloyds TSB 20p to 616½p. Barclays 17½p to £11.95. Standard Chartered 17½p to 49½p and Abbey National 37p to 83p. Meanwhile, the market is still waiting the outcome of bid talks at Cater Allen, up 5p at 552½p.

Norwich Union continued to give up ground, with the price falling 60p to 318½p. It reduces the premium on the free shares to members to 25½p and the discounted shares to 53½p. Turnover stretched to 36 million shares.

Shell suffered a fall of 3p at 612½p after cautious comments from Caveney, the broker. But Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, broker for Siebe, remains bullish about the company's prospects and the price responded with a rise 18½p at 988½p.

Energy Group firmed 2p to 643p. That compares with the 665p on the table from Pacificorp. Some brokers are saying it might be worth



John Simons, of Hazlewood, saw the share price rise

buying the shares and taking a risk that the bid will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

**Midland Independent** News rose 30p to 179p after announcing it was in talks with Mirror Group. 31p lighter at 205p. Shire Pharmaceutical slipped 2p to 231p. Lehman Brothers has been pushing the shares to clients and says the group's

make-up has changed since it acquired Pharmavene.

There was cheer for Hazlewood shareholders, with the price 5½p better at 162½p on the back of encouraging news about trading and a sizeable disposal. It is raising £45 million from the sale of its potato processing business. John Simons, chief executive, also reported an increase in sales volume of 7.4

per cent in the second half against 2.6 per cent in the first six months.

Coultaloids ended 5½p lower at 346½p amid growing fears that its tencel fibre product could face competition in a shorter span of time than expected. Pason continued to reel from this week's sales warning, with the price losing 2p at 405½p.

On the Alternative Investment Market, Petra Diamonds touched 121p before ending the session 3½p better at 103½p after being awarded the concession to prospect and mine for diamonds in an area of northeast Angola.

Shares of Ballycastle, the gold mining group, were suspended at 85½p while it tries to resolve further short-term financing.

A big rise in profits and bullish comments about trading from Lord Harris of Peckham, chairman, saw Carpetright surge 57½p to 478½p. The suggestion that the high street will benefit from recent building society windfalls and the pick-up in the housing market also benefited MFI Furniture. 7p better at 142p. A worse than expected profits decline at Eurotherm left the shares nursing a fall of 6½p at 376p.

It was the first day of dealings on the big board in Powderject after a placing by Panmure Gordon at 185p. Shares in the group, which has developed a needless injectable system, opened at 195½p before closing at 197½p, a premium of 12½p.

**□ GILT-EDGE:** Prices in London closed at their low point of the day. This followed a buoyant set of US industrial output numbers for May that led to those sharp falls in US Treasury bonds. There was little response to the latest PSBR. Next week the Bank of England will issue £2 billion of Treasury 7 per cent 2007 as part of its auction.

In the future pit, the September series of the Long Gilt fell £132 to £114½ as a total of 49,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost 1½p at £1038½p, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2002 was three ticks off at £1034½p.

**□ NEW YORK:** The Dow Jones industrial average rebounded from a morning drop and was moderately higher. At midday, the index was up 21.26 points at 7,793.5.

Mr Davies added: "Costs savings of £170 million should boost the growth rate by 1.3 per cent during 1999 and the year 2000. The newly merged group is capable of generating £1 billion a year in cash to give back to shareholders, or the equivalent as a share buy-back."

Shareholders have already been promised a £2.4 billion payout if they agree to the deal.

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# A bulldog with a firm grip on his ego

As BSkyB's chief announces his departure, Eric Reguly reports on a career that changed satellite broadcasting

**S**amuel Hewlings Chisholm is more respected than loved. The square-framed New Zealander looks like a bulldog and invites comparisons to James Cagney. At Channel 9, the Australian television network he ran before he was poached by Rupert Murdoch and dispatched to Britain to salvage Sky and British Satellite Broadcasting, he had a sign on his desk that read: "To err is human; to forgive is not my policy."

Chisholm has a bruising, in-your-face style that made management tremble. But employees who work hard are richly rewarded by Chisholm and earn his unwavering loyalty. David Chance, the BSkyB deputy managing director who joined Sky a year before its 1990 merger with BSB, was one. Chance toiled like a slave and was instrumental in turning the struggling group into one of the most powerful forces in television, an effort that gave him a stomach ulcer.

Chance was treated like a son in return. He earned more than £2.6 million last year and Chisholm bought him a Harley Davidson motorcycle, which was delivered by the *Playboy* pin-up Miss October at his 40th birthday party in April. Chance, of course, has had no time to learn

how to drive the machine. The dynamic duo, one of the most successful one-two acts in TV history, have now decided to call it quits. Chisholm, 57, suffers from asthma, a disorder that made the life of his two brothers and father a misery. He said: "Running BSkyB has been a most wonderful experience and very stimulating, but it has also been very demanding... my doctors have advised me that I should not take on the next stage of BSkyB's development."

In January Chisholm will cease being chief executive but will remain as a director. Chance is leaving at the same time and will become a BSkyB "consultant", a role that will see him work on the launch of the company's 200 digital channels next year. Inevitably, rumours circulated that their departure was part of a management shake-up orchestrated by Rupert Murdoch, the chairman of The News Corporation, [News International], the subsidiary of News Corp that owns *The Times*, owns 40 per cent of

BSkyB.) The rumours have not been substantiated. Murdoch, in fact, offered Chance the top job. Chance could not face another three years of 80-hour weeks, however, and said he wanted to be taken out of the running. Roger Luard, the chief executive of Flextech, whose channels form part of BSkyB's basic service, said: "I think David has decided that the sheer stress and pressure of running a company that big would be too much."

His replacement has not been chosen, though it seems that Elisabeth Murdoch, 22, Murdoch's daughter, who is BSkyB's general manager of broadcasting, is destined for greater things. Chisholm is to be replaced by Mark Booth, the 40-year-old American who is chief operating officer of JSkyB, News Corp's satellite venture in Japan.

The tributes to Chisholm and Chance were endless yesterday, but it was the market that paid them the greatest compliment. BSkyB shares fell 21½, to 566½ p, an indication that

investors fear the company's growth momentum cannot be sustained in their absence.

While there is no doubt that Chance will resurface in a top TV or entertainment job in Britain or America after a good rest, Chisholm plans to take it easy. He has a resort home and a ranch in Australia and has literally millions of pounds to spend. He earned £4.7 million last year and has shares worth another £5 million simmering in the executive bonus scheme.

Chisholm is not a rags-to-riches story. His father was a prosperous New Zealand farm owner who sent his son to Kings College in Auckland, one of the few schools in the country that charged a fee.

His first career was hardly thrilling — he became a salesman for Johnson's Wax — but Ronda, his bride, a former Miss New Zealand, added a touch of glamour to his life. A natural salesman, Chisholm joined Channel 9 in Melbourne, where he sold advertising

ing, at age 24 and worked his way up the ladder. He reached managing director but left in the late 1980s after Alan Bond bought the network. Murdoch, impressed by his record at Channel 9, lured him to Britain to face the greatest challenge of his career.

Chisholm's job was to merge Sky with BSB at a time when the companies were collectively losing £14 million a week. The sceptics outnumbered the optimists and the pushy foreigner was given little chance of succeeding. Through relentless pushing, cost-cutting and deal making, BSkyB was able to break even in 1992. Buying the rights to Hollywood films and sports coverage, notably the rights to live FA Premiership football coverage, made BSkyB the most successful new broadcaster since the war. "Sam created the template for other satellite broadcasters around the world," Luard said.

BSkyB now has more than six million customers and a market capitalisation of £10 billion, which makes it larger than News Corp itself. Chisholm once joked that BSkyB should buy News Corp. He never let his ego get as big as his company. "At the end of the day, I am just another employee like everyone else," he said.



ANTHONY HARRIS

## Why Brown will outface the angry bulls

Gordon Brown's City

honeymoon appears to be over. Bank management of interest rates was welcome; the new monetary policy committee is impressive; his Mansion House speech was emollient. Even the substitution of an inflation target for the previous inflation ceiling has gone down quite well. But now he is preparing his first Budget, and it looks suggest that he is not planning to take just another nibble at Norman Lamont's advanced corporation tax cherrv (for it was Lamont who in 1993 first reduced the value of the ACT clawback to pension schemes). No — he is going to swallow it whole.

No tax privilege at all? If so, down goes the value of company pension funds and out go the tax advantages of City-run pension schemes. No wonder that the FTSE is falling at about 1 per cent a day (and will fall by about 10 per cent in the end, on learned estimates). What a dreadful man, after all. If Brown were running for City sainthood, Greenspan style, he might have second thoughts. But it seems likelier that he rather enjoys the outrage (which should improve his standing with old Labour) and as seen from the Treasury, his plan has some solid merits.

Beyond the short-term, and in any case questionable, gain in corporation tax revenue, asset price inflation has already been checked, no doubt to the relief of the Bank of England. If the end of Miras checks house prices too, so much the better. Some actuaries have argued that it is all a waste of time: companies will divert all the money the Treasury hopes to collect into their depleted pension funds. On most estimates, this is a gross overstatement. There may be a pause in company tax payments, but the long-term revenue gains are sure — and Brown is a man for the long term.

There could be two immediate gains that have not been much noticed: cheaper government funding and some fall in over-valued sterling. This might be deployed by some in the City, but not by the Bank, which sees sterling as a dilemma.

# American workplace is being paralysed by fear of litigation

**E**xuse factory must serve as warning for Britain says Tunku Varadarajan

**A**nyone who was flabbergasted by the recent House of Lords ruling in *Malik v BCCI* — in which two former employees of the fraud-riddled bank were allowed to claim compensation from the liquidators for the "stigma" that is now alleged to hamper their rehiring by other employers — should read a riveting new book from America called *The Excuse Factory*.

It will soon dawn, on the reader, no more than perhaps a dozen or so pages into this 378-page effort, that Britain is still far, far away from the litigious looniness that reigns in the United States. We should breathe a sigh of relief while we can. Let the book serve as a warning of the way things might become if this country were to drop its guard.

The author, Michael Olson, a senior fellow at New York's Manhattan Institute, has shown what is wrong — and why — with the American workplace. Mr Olson's thesis, in a nutshell, is that "employment law is paralysing the American workplace".

His book, written in the best traditions of reformist polemic, is studded with one bewildering real-life case after another, each showing how the law has turned every employee into a potential plaintiff out to "shake one's boss by the ankles until coins roll out".

What exactly is Mr Olson talking about? Consider this example, from the front page of *The Washington Post* of April 8: "In January, a former truck driver for Ryder Systems Inc won a \$5.5 million jury verdict after claiming, under the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, that Ryder unfairly removed him from his



American offices, paranoid at the best of times, as exemplified by the film *Working Girl*, now find themselves in the grip of employee power

position after he suffered an epileptic seizure, saying his health condition could be a safety hazard. During the time he was blocked from his job at Ryder, the driver was hired by another firm, had a seizure behind the wheel and crashed into a tree."

There are other egregious examples, all stemming from what Mr Olson calls the law's "venture into freelance social reconstruction". In October 1993 Northwest Airlines announced to rehire pilot Norman Prouse as a ground trainer, three years after he had been sacked for flying a passenger plane with a blood-alcohol level 60 times greater than the permitted maximum for a pilot. Mr Prouse went to a "dry-out" clinic and then came back to Northwest for a job.

Had he not been rehired, the disgraced former pilot could have sued the company for millions. The airline chickened out of a court battle it would probably have lost, because the law gives powerful rights to the "rehabilitated".

Under the pressure of law-

suits, the testing of potential employees has been all but eliminated. For example, an Ohio federal judge rejected a timed test where prospective firefighters ran upstairs carrying a heavy sack (used to simulate the body of an unconscious adult). The men outperformed the women, so the test was ruled unfair.

Mr Olson's book would make amusing reading but for the fact that it is so depressing. He lists the following job interview questions which could reap painful lawsuits for employers if asked of applicants: do not ask if an applicant grew up "in the area" (his answer might reveal his national origin); do not ask when he or she went to college, (open up the risk of an "ageism" suit); do not ask where he or she lives (are you perchance trying to snoop into credit records); and do not ask a woman if she wants to be called Miss, Mrs or Ms.

American courts have even ruled that it is "improper" to ask an applicant if he or she has a criminal record, a history of mental illness or a

problem with alcohol. Lawsuits over employment references have led to the collapse of the job reference system in numerous industries and professions. So fearful are firms of being sued for "defamation" or "conscious indifference" that references are merely chronological catalogues an employer's time at a firm.

As the body of law designed to "accommodate the disadvantaged" in the American workplace grows larger, virtually every decision made by employers has become the subject of a potential lawsuit. American jurisprudence now recognises, to all intents and purposes, "a new right to sue".

**B**efore employment became the cast-iron "entitlement" that it is today, either side could end the employer-employee relation on short notice, "much as we are free to stop dealing with a tradesman if we grow dissatisfied with his service". The courts, however, now "dictate that a working relationship be continued indefinitely against one side's

will". And since the days of slavery are over, that side is always the employer. In America today, there is effectively "no right to sack someone you would rather not have working for you".

Mr Olson draws an intriguing comparison between employment and marriage. Whereas once the law required people to show good cause before they could get out of a marriage, leaving employment to the free will of the parties, the situation is now completely inverted. If a dispute arises at home, the parties are allowed to make "a fresh start"; if it arises at the workplace, the employer "may have to stick it out forever".

The author also wishes for a

return to the days when workplace disputes were resolved through union negotiations.

There was then a greater sense

of proportion, as well as an understanding of the true nature of the employment.

Today's "negotiators", lamentably, are the lawyers who encourage employees to sue, grab it and run.

A lawyer's guide on the

market, called *Sue Your Boss*, tells employees: "The laws are very much in your favour, waiting to be used. Vast sums can be had." Another guide tells of "a jury award out there with your name on it".

Mr Olson draws a bleak story. It is, as yet, America's alone. Could it soon be ours?

*The Excuse Factory* by Walter Olson is published by The Free Press, New York, 1997.

## An easy touch

**A**N OUTBREAK of generosity at the Stock Exchange, Giles Vardey, director of market development until March, has been awarded a £129,000 pay-off — about 70 per cent of his basic annual salary. Very nice, especially as in December he resigned, we all assumed, after being passed over as chief executive in favour of Gavin Casey.

So let me get this right.

Vardey quits of his own free

will, is not replaced, is given



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Sec	Sale	Buy	+/-	%	Sec	Sale	Buy	+/-	%	Sec	Sale	Buy	+/-	%	Sec	Sale	Buy	+/-	%	Sec	Sale	Buy	+/-	%
For All New Growth (Units)					Pacific Portfolio	183.71	190.00	+ 6.29	0.35	Japan Small Cos	165.97	201.05	+ 1.45	0.88	Monthly Income	104.30	159.20	+ 1.50	4.42	Special Sls	152.20	169.40	+ 0.10	1.47
AXA EQUITY & LIV UNIT TST MGRS LTD	101.62 531 251	113.00	- 1.38	0.30	UCI Equity Fund	107.79	114.05	+ 0.12	0.28	John Fred	95.12	105.50	+ 0.50	0.48	Mutual Personal Pension Unit Trust	104.20	169.40	+ 0.10	1.47	Special Acc	350.50	407.70	+ 2.00	5.5
General Inv.	565.65	574.70	- 1.10	2.23	USI Small Cos	52.61	53.00	- 0.26	5.31	North American	165.63	172.25	- 0.11	0.63	British Govt	74.75	74.75	- 0.00	0.00	British Inv Inc	375.00	401.40	+ 0.80	2.06
Inv General Inv	565.65	574.70	- 1.10	2.23	USI Small Cos	53.03	57.36	- 0.12	1.65	American Sector	162.41	165.44	- 0.31	0.19	Global Inv Inc	109.70	115.70	+ 0.50	4.29	NH Amer Inv Inc	252.60	265.10	+ 0.40	1.50
Higher Inv Inc	142.40	162.70	- 1.30	2.75	High Inv Inv	104.50	126.50	- 0.14	2.37	American Sector	162.41	165.44	- 0.31	0.19	Al Mkt Inv Inc	109.70	115.70	+ 0.50	4.29					
Higher Inv Inc	142.40	162.70	- 1.30	2.75	High Inv Inv	104.50	126.50	- 0.14	2.37	American Sector	162.41	165.44	- 0.31	0.19	Al Mkt Inv Inc	109.70	115.70	+ 0.50	4.29					
Calif Inv Inv	121.80	233.00	- 1.20	2.56	High Inv Inv	104.50	126.50	- 0.14	2.37	American Sector	162.41	165.44	- 0.31	0.19	Al Mkt Inv Inc	109.70	115.70	+ 0.50	4.29					
Inv Assets Inv	40.40	42.50	- 0.20	0.50	High Inv Inv	104.50	126.50	- 0.14	2.37	American Sector	162.41	165.44	- 0.31	0.19	Al Mkt Inv Inc	109.70	115.70	+ 0.50	4.29					
Equity Inv	67.20	144.20	- 3.20	0.20	High Inv Inv	104.50	126.50	- 0.14	2.37	American Sector	162.41	165.44	- 0.31	0.19	Al Mkt Inv Inc	109.70	115.70	+ 0.50	4.29					
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Inv Assets Inv	40.40	42.50	- 0.20	0.50	High Inv Inv	104.50	126.50	- 0.14	2.37	American Sector	162.41	165.44	- 0.31	0.19	Al Mkt Inv Inc	109.70	115.70	+ 0.50	4.29					
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■ VISUAL ART 1  
A "city within a city": the Hayward Gallery mounts a show called *Rhapsodies in Black* ...



■ VISUAL ART 2  
... evoking Harlem in the era when it was at the forefront of American art and music



■ MUSIC 1  
At the South Bank Maurizio Pollini completes his Beethoven sonatas cycle to huge audience acclaim



■ MUSIC 2  
... and at the Spitalfields Festival Judith Weir's fine new Piano Concerto is premiered

# The no-go area that lured butterflies

VISUAL ART:  
Clive Davis on a show that evokes the days when the chic and cheerful held court in Harlem

To the writers and artists who made it their home, it was "a city within a city". When *The New Yorker's* Jervis Anderson published his history of the early years of Manhattan's black metropolis he gave his book the evocative title, *The Great Black Way*.

The words have an ironic ring now, so profoundly is modern Harlem associated with images of urban decay. True, tourists still crowd into the galleries of the Abyssinian Baptist church on Sunday mornings and there are gospel music brunches at a restaurant named after the notorious Cotton Club. But the era when *The Lady is a Tramp* told of fashionable ladies journeying up town in ermine and pearls is long gone.

The glamour and mythology of the surge of creativity known as the Harlem Renaissance will be explored in *Rhapsodies in Black*, a multi-media exhibition which opens at the Hayward Gallery tomorrow. As well as introducing artists such as Aaron Douglas to a wider audience, the show will take a self-consciously broad-brush approach by pointing to the Afro-American influence on such figures as Britain's own Edward Burra.

The exhibition's co-organiser, the American art historian Richard Powell, sketches more of the cultural background in his new study *Black Art and Culture in the 20th Century*, published by Thames and Hudson. An added dimension to the South Bank exhibition will also come in the form of music and film clips by performers including



Archibald J. Motley Jr.'s *Blues* (1929) and Charles Alston's *Girl in a Red Dress* (1934): two of the paintings in the Hayward Gallery's new evocation of the days when Harlem was the place to be seen

Duke Ellington and Paul Robeson.

One other highlight should be a re-creation, featuring the actor Clarke Peters, of the goings-on at the soirees organised by the cosmetics heiress, A'Lelia Walker. Said to be the richest woman in Harlem, Walker took her role as patron of the arts so seriously that she turned the ground floor of her town house into a meeting place and watering hole called the Dark Tower Tea Club.

Here was a salon where the assertive, self-confident "New Negro" could swap gossip or debate his role in the vanguard of social change. Taking

their cue from the influential historian and polemicist W.E.B. Du Bois, the artists and professionals who belonged to the "Talented Tenth" of their race placed their faith in cultural uplift as a means of achieving political equality.

Not everyone was convinced. In his autobiography, *The Big Sea*, the poet Langston Hughes observed: "Some Harlemites thought the millennium had come. They thought the race problem had been solved through art, plus the society pianist Gladys Bentley. I don't know what made any negroes think that — except that they were mostly intellectuals doing the think-

ing. The ordinary negro hadn't heard of the negro Renaissance. And if they had, it hadn't raised their wages any."

Still, it was for many a time of unabashed optimism and energy. In the Jazz Age, New York was governed by the hard-living mayor Jimmy Walker, a former songwriter who declared: "No civilised man goes to bed the same day he wakes up." Harlem tapped into that spirit during the Prohibition years as a centre of the bootleg liquor industry.

The Cotton Club was one of many establishments where well-to-do whites could find a ready supply of alcohol.

Black culture was in vogue.

opera *Porgy and Bess*) appeared the following year. *Vanity Fair* noted that the smart set was hiring mixed-race maids "with an eye to their dexterity at dancing the Charleston".

Some sense of this exotic atmosphere is conveyed in one of the best novels to come out of the Renaissance, Jessie Fauset's

*Plum Bun*, the beguiling Jane Austenish story of a light-skinned woman who opts for a kind of freedom by "passing" as white.

When Fauset's heroine

makes a rare trip to Harlem she is enchanted by the crowds of smartly dressed people: "They were gossiping, laughing, dickering, chaffing, combining the customs of the small town with the astonishing cosmopolitanism of their clothes and manners. Nowhere down town did she see life like this. Oh, this was fuller, richer, not finer but richer with the difference in quality that there is between velvet and silk."

Hughes dated the advent of

the Renaissance to the opening in 1921 of Eubie Blake and Noble Sissle's all-black revue,

*Shuffle Along*, the hit show

that gave the world the song

*I'm Just Wild About Harry*. Similarly, he saw the sudden death of A'Lelia Walker ten years later, in only her late forties, as a sign that the good times were coming to an end.

The Wall Street crash of 1929 had already begun to take its toll. Hughes wrote: "White people had much less money to spend on themselves, and practically none to spend on negroes, for the Depression brought everyone down a peg or two. And the negroes had

but few pegs to fall".

• *Rhapsodies in Black: Art of the Harlem Renaissance*, at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-900 4242) from tomorrow to August 17

CONCERTS: Journey's end for Pollini in his cycle through the piano sonatas; plus a woman's place in the singer's canon — and among composers

## Beethoven role over in triumph

So the revels now are ended. An evening which had begun with a tense and silent ten minutes of expectation and apprehension ended with a Festival Hall on its feet, acclaiming in ovation after ovation the completion of Maurizio Pollini's seven-redicul journey through Beethoven's piano sonatas.

As with all voyages, there

have been good times and bad times for both Pollini and the audience as travelling companions.

The numb tension which can grip Pollini's arms, fingers and entire sensibility was certainly there again at the start. Perhaps the enormous burden of expectation, perhaps the weight of sheer fatigue blurred the contours of mel-

Maurizio Pollini  
Festival Hall

ody and the clarity of voicing in a less than lively opening of the Op 109 Sonata in E. The *Prestissimo* seemed driven, lacklustre, and the final ever-metamorphosing song was full of *innigkeit*, inwardness, yes — but it was arduous, closed in on itself, reluctant to communicate.

As the opening of the Op 110 Sonata mirrored its way out of the material of its predecessor, clearer air was breathed, clearer fingerwork released. Over-pedalling and a degree of tension still tended to sap the energy and blur the impact of the second movement's springing chords.

But as the last, long movement grew from tentative recitative to song to fugue, so Pollini seemed to draw confidence and strength from the music itself, and his wonderfully slow crescendo of chords, retreating once more into a single, questing voice, found a true sense of focus.

As if reassured by the heartfelt applause which greeted his return after the interval, Pollini at last seemed able to become totally absorbed in the musical substance of Beethoven's last Sonata, the Op 111 in C minor, just as the Sonata itself finally assimilated so much of what had gone before. Octaves rang out, trills be-

came a mighty roar of resonance, rhythmic intensification and harmonic modulation were felt emotionally, as well as structurally.

And when all passion had been spent, the final Arietta moved as if in infinite space and infinite time, fragmenting, transmuting and transforming its song as if moving towards a final, quivering dematerialisation of sound itself.

HILARY FINCH

Weir in a world of her own

NEXT year, Judith Weir will become sole artistic director of the Spitalfields Festival. She made her mark on this year's programme last Thursday, with a new piano concerto, a piece that should come to occupy an important place in the composer's output. It is not a "big" work: the virtuous rhetoric of the traditional piano concerto is not for Weir, whose scoring here for an "orchestra" of nine strings reflects her fresh approach.

The concerto is the latest fruit of her collaboration with the pianist William Howard, who performed it alongside one of the most lightly scored Mozart concertos, K449 in E flat major, in a very satisfying programme by the BT Scottish Ensemble. Howard played both pieces with



Maurizio Pollini: musical voyage ends in rapture

## Not just a pretty voice

Catherine Bott  
Purcell Room

an early age, and moved in the highest artistic circles in Venice in the first half of the 17th century.

Strozzii's music reflects her virtuosity as a performer but is far from being merely superficially brilliant, and Bott's selection revealed a song-writing genius able to compose with fluency in the various genres cultivated at the time but always with her personal stamp: a marked tendency to experimentation in both the harmonic language and the vocal writing.

A good example of the technical reach of her music might be *Pensaci ben mio* core, with its plaintive little *arioso*-style refrain framing the wide-ranging, declaiming vocal line of the verses.

This also saw Bott at her best in the first half of the concert: the refrain was perfectly measured, and there were powerful moments, as at the soaring phrase on the word "pleasure". But at other times the voice seemed somewhat strained, lacking its usual bloom.

After the interval she seemed to get into her stride: the two substantial pieces that ended the programme were compellingly performed, with the voice focused and free.

JOHN ALLISON

All are accomplished, stylish players who use the different colours of their instruments to good effect in their accompaniments, and in their solo items by contemporary instrumental composers such as Mayone and Castaldi.

It has to be said, however, that the Purcell Room acoustic does not favour plucked strings, and this is a programme for one who would like to hear again in the Wigmore Hall.

mental songs, with a bold opening of an unexpected melodic line, was conveyed with a convincing feel for the idiom by Bott, while in *Appresso ai molli argenti*, in which Strozzii is at her most operatic — echoes of late Monteverdi abound — she gave a commanding performance of commanding vocal and stylistic assurance.

Presumably Strozzii sang without reference to the music, possibly with considerable gesture and facial expression: this may be difficult to bring off before audiences removed by several centuries of listening practices, but there would be much to be said for singing this music, so full of emotional drama, from memory.

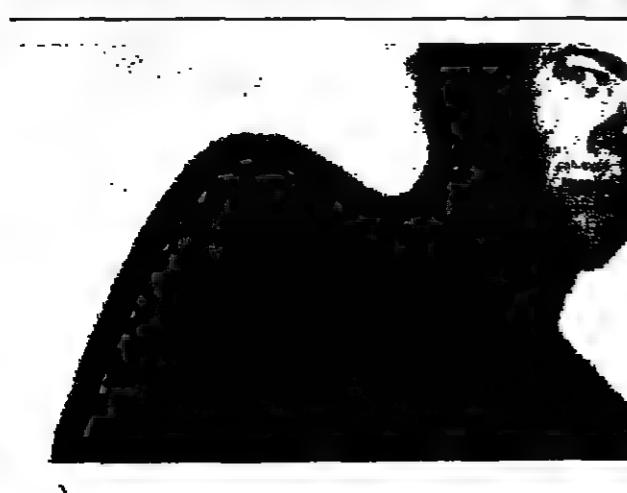
In all this, Bott was accompanied by harpsichord (Timothy Roberts) and plucked strings: Frances Kelly on double harp and Paula Chateauvel on theorbo and baroque guitar.

All are accomplished, stylish players who use the different colours of their instruments to good effect in their accompaniments, and in their solo items by contemporary instrumental composers such as Mayone and Castaldi.

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TESS KNIGHTON

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997



■ FILM

The new British movies succeed best when they aim to please local audiences first



■ RISING STAR

Andrew Howard's break came when he starred in the BBC's "Welsh Western" series, *Drovers' Gold*



■ DANCE

Pina Bausch's monumental production of *The Rite of Spring* is revived in Paris



■ POP

Currently voguish Midlands band Spiritualized take time to hit their stride at the Astoria

# Cinderella goes to the bonus ball

Thanks to the lottery, but also to a new confidence in its own powers, British film is on the up again. Carol Allen reports

**T**he success of films such as *The English Patient* and *Sense and Sensibility*, featuring English stories and talent but financed with American money, raises the question of what a British movie really is. If you are applying for lottery funds, there are clearly defined rules regarding where the investment is coming from and where the film is actually made. But film is not just about money. Movies are also about reflecting a nation's culture, attitudes and way of life.

This is how David Aukin, films supremo at Channel 4, which wholly or partly finances about 20 films a year, defines a British film: "I think it helps if it's made in this country, but that's not the only definition. I don't think that whether the money comes from abroad necessarily determines a film's Britishness. You look at the talent and the story and how it's told. That's what's so exciting about films such as *Secrets and Lies* and *Trainspotting*: they are films which reflect a specifically British style."

By that definition *Intimate Relations*, which opens on Friday, is a very British movie: a black comedy of adultery and murder set in English suburbs during the sexually repressed 1950s. The first-time writer/director Philip Goodhew remembers a 1960s childhood which was still dominated by the euphemisms and attitudes of the previous decade. "Although it is based on a true story which happened before I was born, I also wrote this from my own experience of living and being an English person," Goodhew says. "I didn't think of foreign markets, I didn't think of markets at all; I wanted to tell a story."

But the international appeal of the film was demonstrated by the battles among distributors to ac-

quire it when it was shown at the American Film Market. For years the problem has been to persuade a British audience to pay money to see a British film. But that is no longer the case, according to Aukin.

"An important film which marked the change was *Shallow Grave*, the first British film for many years to recoup its costs entirely within the UK," Aukin explains. "It told film-makers that there was a British audience and it told British audiences that they could enjoy a British movie. *Brassed Off* was another example of a film which British audiences found for themselves. The American industry first makes films for its own audience and only secondly for the rest of the world. Then, if the rest of the world is also delighted by them, that's a terrific bonus. That's the way to make movies."

Simon Perry, director of British Screen Finance (the partially government-funded film investment body), has noticed a rise in the standard of the projects he is offered, which he attributes to an increased confidence in the film business. "Things are really buzzing in London, Glasgow, Belfast," he says. "When people feel that what they write or want to produce has a good chance of finding a big audience, they work at their best. There's a lot of proof now that it can happen. British films which might have been considered unmakeable ten years ago are going out and conquering the world."

Last year was a boom time, with 123 films being completed, compared with 73 the previous year. The advance buzz on many is good: Gary Oldman's *Nil By Mouth*, for which Kathy Burke won the Best Actress prize at Cannes; Michael Winterbottom's Bosnian drama, *Welcome to Sarajevo*; Hanif

Kureishi's tale of Islamic fundamentalism in Bradford, *My Son the Fanatic*; and Judi Dench and Billy Connolly as Queen Victoria and John Brown in *Mrs Brown* are all tipped for success. *Wilde*, starring Stephen Fry as Oscar Wilde, is from the same team that made *Tom and Viv*, and promises to repeat that film's commercial and artistic success with its marriage of good-looking costume drama to an intelligent contemporary perspective on its subject.

But raising the finance is still no picnic. Goodhew admits that luck played a big role in getting *Intimate Relations* to the screen. He sent his script to Julie Walters, whom he had never met; she liked it so much she committed to the lead role on the spot. That captured the interest of Handmade Films, which was just being relaunched after a Canadian takeover and was looking for good projects.

Sources of finance are opening

out, though. The BBC and other television companies are now investing in films, and sources overseas are increasingly willing to put up finance. "Ten years ago the classic way to make a film was with Channel 4, British Screen and an American presale," Perry says. "Now producers go all over the world. One factor is the lottery money, which means we've got real money to bring to the table."

Critics of the idea of using lottery money to finance movies cite turkeys such as *Crime Time* and *True Blue* as reasons for this being a misuse of public funds. But of the 55 films which up until last February had received lottery funds, directly or via the Greenlight Fund for larger-budget projects, only a handful have so far been released. Lottery beneficiaries on the way include *Wilde*; David Leland's *Land Girls*; and *Keep the Aspidistra Flying*, which

the producer Peter Shaw admits could not have been made without the lottery, despite good international distribution deals.

Details of how the recently awarded lottery franchises will operate are still to be worked out. Despite criticisms that the money went to companies which already had the wherewithal to raise finance, Perry sees it as a practical step towards building a true British film industry. "What we need are major companies based in Europe on the Hollywood pattern, financing, developing, producing, distributing."

Ultimately, whether a film gets made is down to the determination of the individual. Wannabe filmmakers will find some handy tips in Graham Jones's recently published book, *Talking Pictures*. He compiled it two years ago for his final year project at film school by picking the brains of independent film-makers as diverse as Andrew McDonald (*Trainspotting*), Jeremy

Bolt (*Shopping*) and Sam Taylor (*The Young Poisoner's Handbook*), asking basic questions such as "How did you get your first film off the ground?"

Armed with that knowledge, Jones then went back to his native Ireland to make his first feature film, a heist movie for young people called *How to Cheat in the Leaving Certificate*, in which the exam questions play the role normally reserved for diamonds or dollars.

"The most important thing I learn from all those interviews was that you've just got to do it," he says. "There's a huge number of people who put films in the pipeline, and only a small number of them end up making their movie. That's because they lack the energy. You have to be like a train, saying 'nothing is going to stop me', and then you've got to go for it."

■ *Intimate Relations* opens on Friday. *Graham Jones's Talking Pictures* is published by the British Film Institute

## Making the dark earth move

DANCE: An epic revival of the *Rite of Spring* in Paris



Primitive and unpretty: dancers of the Paris Opera Ballet in Pina Bausch's *Rite of Spring*

being reduced to their rawest animal state, a herd impelled by biological determinism and robbed of free will. Their movement is brute and convulsive; you can hear their panting exhaustion, you watch them become grubby with soil. They are magnificent.

The women stand hunched and shuddery, near naked in flimsy beige shifts which they draw up with childish, ungainly immobility. They are gripped by terror because they know one of them will be the sacrificial victim to mark the end of winter — the Chosen One who dances to the death. The red dress she will wear is passed among them, a rag both fearful and fascinating. They huddle together for comfort, then disintegrate into

panic-stricken scurries as destiny stirs under the surface. And when a woman is chosen (Aurélie Dupont) by the male leader, the music briefly unleashes the colossal power of its drums, like the cracking of the Russian ice in spring. It signals the release of pent-up

sexual longing, the men and women flying like shards into each other's arms.

What makes Bausch's *Rite*

so extraordinary is the balance between visceral realism and intervals of vivid, orchestrated geometry: the phanoxes of unison dance, the circle of

dancers revolving with stately vastness to the music slow's section, like the cycle of the seasons, like life. And then there are Bausch's emotional images: the crowd waiting before the victim-like spectators at a bullfight; the girl's frozen terror as she is forced to walk by the man, who pushes her, half holding her up, her feet resisting helplessly against the loose soil.

Meanwhile, Bausch's own company is in Paris at the Théâtre de la Ville, showing *Nur Du* (Only You); her newest piece. Created last year for an American tour, it pays homage to American popular music of the Fifties and Sixties.

The cast performs Bausch's usual mix of sketches, gags and dance; Dominique Mercy appears in drag as an ageing film star. The evening, though, is diffuse and lacks originality. At three hours long, plus interval, it seems tired; but even Bausch must be allowed her honourable failures.

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### GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

ANDREW HOWARD



Age: 27.  
Presently appearing: As Aaron, the juve lead, in the Welsh western *Drovers' Gold* on BBC1 on Fridays.

Fun or what? "It was boyhood dream-type stuff. You were in love, fighting, going through bar-room windows. It's not a big budget movie so you're not allowed ten takes. People are looking at their watches. But there's something so enjoyable about it that you forget all that."

Where did the acting bug come from? "I used to bunk off school and sit in the movies on my own in the afternoons. One film I saw that really made me feel I could do acting was *Mona Lisa*. It had that grimy British quality that I recognised. The acting was superb."

How did he get started? "I left school at 16 and got involved with a theatre troupe that trained actors on tour. Through that I got my first audition for a Devon company called Orchard. That was my real grounding with lots of classical and modern plays and devised stuff. I love the immediacy of theatre. It's just a high form of showing off. That was the only thing I showed any aptitude for in school."

Is being Welsh a help or a hindrance? "At the moment it's a help. Over the past 20 years, even two years ago, it was a hindrance because Welsh characters were so stereotyped. But there's a crowd of us up here in London and there have been two Welsh plays recently, one of which I was in [Cardiff East by Peter Gill at the Cottesloe]."

What's next? "I'm a jobbing actor again. Last time I was unemployed, I co-wrote a screenplay which was bought by a company in New York. So I still scribble."

Where would he be now if he hadn't acted? "I don't know. I suppose I'd dread to think."

W. STEPHEN GILBERT



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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

RK HOMES 37

# Bridging the credibility gap

BARRY GREENWOOD

The estate agent  
of the year hopes  
to restore faith  
in a tarnished  
profession, says

Eve-Ann  
Prentice

**T**he image of the money-grabbing yuppie estate agent preying on buyers and sellers in the 1980s has become so embedded in the popular psyche that agents still command little respect among the public.

Tales abound of agents who wasted time and money misleading potential clients, taking them to view rabbit-hutch dwellings beneath motorway flyovers when they specified somewhere quiet, or of garden-loving families who have been sent to view a one-bedroom penthouse flat.

But now that the housing market is off the critical list, the profession is eager to give itself a healthier image.

According to one poll taken in 1990, during the worst of the property slump, estate agents were deemed the laziest of 13 professions, cared the least, and came second only to politicians as least deserving of their salaries and respect in the community.

Now one man has been chosen to represent all that is good and caring about the profession. Stephen Burns, from Bury, Lancashire, has been voted estate agent of the year.

In a contest organised by the National Association of Estate Agents and Nationwide Building Society, Mr Burns and his company, Stephen Burns & Co, were selected best independent residential sales office after nominations by his clients and secret visits by pretend-customers.

More than 18,000 people nominated estate agents nationwide in the competition, and 52 finalists gathered in London last month to hear the results.

Awards also went to JHK Homes Ltd of Muswell Hill, London, for best management and lettings office, and to Slater Hogg & Howison, based in Ayr, Scotland, for best corporate residential sales office.

So what is the secret of Mr Burns's success? "In the boom years, people sold out for an easy buck," he says. "Now it is hard



"We don't look at people as a fee," says the award winner, Stephen Burns. "We work seven days a week and I want the work to be seen as interesting and fun."

work and new regulations, such as tougher trade descriptions rules, have tightened the profession."

Mr Burns, 30, joined the Army after leaving school and, unsure of what to do after that, became a corporate estate agent. He set up Stephen Burns & Co 15 months ago.

"I decided to run things on a low-volume, high-quality basis," he says. "We charge a bit more than some, 2 per cent commission, but most of our clients seem to appreciate the service we give. As well as being nominated for this award, we do get thank-you

cards. We don't look at people as a fee. We work seven days a week and I want the work to be seen as interesting and fun. I have no time for hobbies as I am usually at work until 9pm or 10pm." He and his wife, Jackie, a DSS training officer, have two young children and hope to have a

holiday "some time next year". Mr Burns's tips for choosing a good estate agent include visiting the office at the weekend when the boss is more likely to be away to see how well the operation is staffed and run.

"If there are three phones ringing and only one member of

staff present, the chances are that you will be ignored later and that there will be little follow-up on your behalf," he says. "Presentation is important; beware of shabby signboards and offices."

The estate agency competition has been running for five years and this year's contest attracted twice as many nominations as last year. Mr Burns is delighted about his award but knows that estate agents still have a long way to go before they win the public round. Even dentists are held in higher esteem.

"The perception is that we will run up and take your wallet," he says. "We have to make people relax by building up trust."

Mike Lazenby of Nationwide Building Society, which sponsored the awards for estate agents, says: "There is no doubt that estate agents have had a chequered history, but the fact that we had twice as many people recommending an agent for awards this year seems to show that they are working harder for their clients."

"Mystery shoppers" who posed as clients to test the finalists belonged, said Mr Lazenby, to an unnamed outside company "with a very strict brief".

## THE TEST OF A TOP ESTATE AGENT

### Attention to detail takes prize

HAVING recently survived the trauma of selling and buying a home, I was well equipped to test the award-winning efficiency of Stephen Burns & Co in Bury, Lancashire. On the pretext of relocating from London, I set out to discover what made the company estate agent of the year.

Estate agents must be most conscious of the truth that there is never a second chance to make a good first impression. Rarely can housebuyers hold such a strong hand as they do at present. In my experience, the only true test of an estate agent's merit is to go through the entire process of both selling and buying a property. It is the former, not the latter, which genuinely sorts the wheat from the chaff.

But not having a house to sell in Bury, I had no choice but to resort to the first-impression test: telephoning a number of agents in the area to make a comparison. The first was a non-starter. They did not even answer the telephone, and there was no answering service either. Maybe it is unduly impatient to expect the phone to be picked up within ten rings, but such is the mark of the consumer age.

The next was better on the telephone answering front, but too high pressure on the sales pitch. Knowing almost nothing about me, apart from how much money I had to spend, the saleswoman opined that she had the perfect house for my requirements. The third was less pressured, in fact almost too laidback, possibly detecting something in my voice that indicated I was not a serious buyer. Hurriedly, she took my name and address. However, when details of the properties arrived in the post, this agency had one of the few houses I would have been interested in viewing.

Finally, I tried Stephen Burns. He was busy on the telephone and, as with all the others, a woman dealt with my inquiry. Without doubt, she was the most efficient and systematic of them all. Her attention to detail was impressive — how many bedrooms did we need, should the house be modern or on the older side, how many reception rooms, did I want a separate dining room, did I have a property to sell? And not only did all the properties she sent fit the stated needs precisely, they were below the minimum price level I had set.

RUTH GLEDHILL

## Your obedient servant

**R**emember the slicked-back hair? The red braces, mobile phones that doubled as cod-pieces, Golf GTIs, and those terrible braying voices? Remember the rapacious young men who talked like used-car salesmen and behaved like pimps? Well, they're gone. Gone with the Eighties.

The recession has killed them off. The survivors who made it to the Nineties are those that evolved, Darwinian style, into a smarter, more caring, species — more *The Admirable Chrichton* than Gordon Gecko of *Wall Street*. Because, to paraphrase Mr Forsyte, in today's market it's service, service, service.

As any estate agent will tell you, the market has shrunk since the Eighties. Confusion over leasehold reform, negative equity, and a new-found caution among mortgage lenders hasn't helped. But the most serious problem is the shortage of properties for sale. Estate agencies have to compete with each other now — unimaginable nine years ago when sales seemed to happen by themselves. To secure an



Competing in a shrinking market, estate agents have become better informed and anxious to please

instruction an agent must offer something more than the other 47 firms operating in the area. To keep it, the agent must be omnipresent at every stage of the sale.

John Wooley, who manages the branch of John Hollingsworth, says: "Preparation is all now. In this market there are no second

chances. When the deal is set, it should go like a torpedo firing from a submarine. In practical terms that has meant a total revolution of our selling methods. Apart from a basic understanding of human psychology, the most important skill is knowledge.

"It's not enough for an agent to act as a broker any more, he

must also be a property adviser. He has to know the legal, financial, and construction aspects of the property business as well as he knows his market values."

In other words, the Nineties agent must know his flying freehold from his leasehold, his fixed from his flexi-mortgage. Some building societies will not lend on conversions. Others have a policy against properties with more than five storeys, or which are set above commercial premises. If the estate agent does not know where the buyer can obtain the right mortgage, the chances are he'll lose the sale and the vendor will take his property elsewhere.

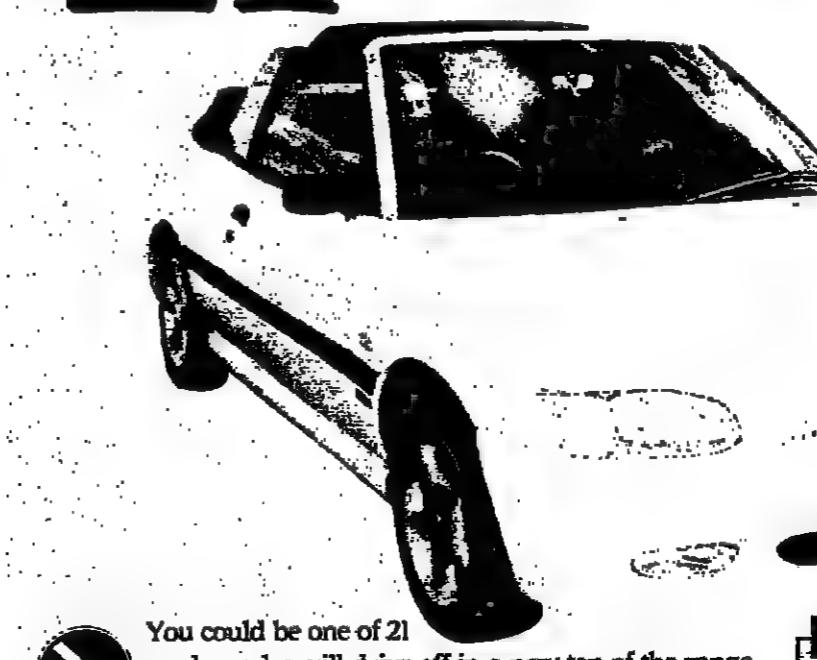
Rebecca Read, head of London sales at Cluttons, which offers a complete package to clients, is blunt: "There is no room in this business for people with low IQs."

Mr Wooley says: "The changes have been good. It has sorted out the men from the boys, and those of us who love the business are still here."

AMANDA FOREMAN

## AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW

### 21 CARS TO BE WON DRIVE AWAY IN A BRAND NEW FORD



You could be one of 21 readers who will drive off in a new top-of-the-range Ford in the biggest and best car promotion ever.

The Times prize draw celebrates 21 years of Ford as Britain's favourite car manufacturer by giving you the chance to win one of 21 cars. Included in the many prizes is the Escort Ghia Cabriolet with an on the road price of £16,945. The Escort is Britain's bestselling car and this model has everything that has made the marque so popular: fast and fun to drive, body colour bumpers, electronic ABS, alloy wheels and low profile tyres plus, with the hood down, an immense amount of style.

**HOW TO ENTER** You need 10 tokens from *The Times* or five from *The Sunday Times* and one from *The Sunday Times*, or two from *The Sunday Times*. All tokens must be differently numbered. The third *Sunday Times* token appeared on Sunday. You can enter as many times as you wish but each entry must be on an official Ford prize draw entry form. Terms and conditions appeared in *The Times* on June 2. The final entry form will be published in *The Times* on Saturday. Full details of where to send your entries and tokens are printed on the entry forms.

Ford 21 years as the nation's favourite *Thank you!*

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## WHAT HAPPENED IN 1992



FORD announces

the Mondeo

(above)

and Escort RS

Cosworth

● Marlene Dietrich,

the singer who

became a Forces

sweetheart, died

● The first digital mobile phone was authorised for sale

● David Platt

became the most

expensive football

player when he

went to Juventus for £8 million

## FORD'S 21 YEARS



TOKEN 15

## Own your own wishing well

A NEWLY refurbished house in St John Street, Clerkenwell, central London, has come on the market with its own private open well in the basement. It has been designed as an art gallery on the ground floor and basement. Residential accommodation, including a studio with a glazed roof, is on the three upper floors.

Clerkenwell derives its name from the Clerks Well, which is at the junction of Clerkenwell Green and Farringdon Lane, and dates from the 12th century.

Despite the drought, the agent, Hurford Salvi Carr, says that the water level of the well is clearly visible.

A nationwide survey by Pilkington UK, the glass company, shows that more men than women are influenced by an attractive interior. 81 per cent of men questioned said that the interior of a property could sway their decision to buy, compared with only 73 per cent of women.

Now that the Glyndebourne opera season has started, opera lovers might be



Grade II cottage, Glynde: £140,000

tempted by a listed Grade II semi-detached cottage in the village of Glynde, at the foot of the South Downs. Strutt & Parker is selling the early 19th-century, four-bedroom property for £140,000. It overlooks the village cricket green and, as it is only two miles north of Glyndebourne Opera House, it is practically within earshot.

Two training yards have come on to the market in Newmarket, Suffolk. Windsor Clive International and Bidwells are selling Hurworth House and Green Lodge.

The owners are retiring and the properties have been run as one for many

years. Winning horses that have been sent out from the yards include Doublé, Athens Wood, Touching Wood and Tingle Creek.

With nearly four acres, the properties have direct access to the Sevills, which, in turn, lead to the gallops of Warren Hill. The property as a whole, with two houses, a cottage and 94 boxes, has a price guide of £1.4 million.

An 18th-century folly near Haslemere in Surrey, built in the style of a romantic castle, is available to rent from Hamptons for £10,000 a month. The Deer Tower at Shillingley Park is set in 120 acres of gardens and parkland. The rooms are linked by a spiral staircase in one of its four towers.

In an attempt to solve the problem of limited accommodation, 80 students in York are living in housing over shops in the historic centre of the city as part of a collaboration between the York-based Living Over The Shop (LOTS) and the University of York.

The scheme — which makes use of space that has often been redundant for decades — is in line with government policy, which welcomes increased town-centre housing and the creation of mixed-use developments.

CHANGING TIMES

Telephone:  
0171 680 6806

# Crème de la Crème

## Focus on your future – attend our Open Day

Friday 20th June 1997, RSA,  
8 John Adam Street, London WC2. 11.00am until 6.30pm.  
Nearest underground: Charing Cross or the Embankment

As one of the world's largest professional services firms, at Ernst & Young, we believe that recruiting the right individuals is integral to our continued growth and success. If you have a GCSE (or equivalent) in English and Maths, together with good typing skills, why not find out what we have to offer.



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HO Executives, and our major retail partners. You will also have line management responsibility for the Office Facilities, Staff, Reception and Secretary to the MD.

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Please telephone or write for an application form to Sue Rout, Estée Lauder Companies, 71/73 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 0BH. Tel: 0171 409 6897 (24hr answerphone).

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Global Sales and Service is an exciting, dynamic and fast moving environment in which to work and this high profile role would provide excellent opportunities and challenge for the right applicant.

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The successful candidate will have extensive experience of working to senior managers and of running a busy office. Your skills should include minute taking and computer literacy. The office currently uses Windows 95. One of your first tasks will be to work with others on a communication strategy for the organisation. In addition to an interesting workload you will supervise the secretary to the Deans.

For an application form, job description and person specification please contact Lisa Arnall, Human Resources Assistant on 0171 404 2936, or write to Human Resources, TPMDE, 33 Milman Street, London WC1N 3BZ.

The closing date for applications is: Thursday 10 July 1997.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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For more information please contact Tomas Mansfield-Smith 0171 581 3818, or send your CV and letter to UMG Group Ltd, 105 Knightsbridge, London, SW1 1RE.

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CVs, including Salary Requirements, should be forwarded to: 28 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0ES

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To apply please send a full CV to:

Linda Totem, Senior Personnel Officer, UBS Asset Management London Limited

Triton Court, 14 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1PD.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday 20th June 1997.

City

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Requires two highly experienced secretaries (legal background advantageous but not essential) for Mayfair office. Outstanding typing, administrative and client relation skills required.

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Must be proficient in Windows 95, Word 7.0, plus knowledge Wperfect 5.1. Some audio.

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Company Director needs a PA to handle administration, property developments, investments, financial affairs, a small charity & various business projects. Comfortable, well-equipped office located in North Surrey. Graduate or equiv. 24-35, with shorthand, financial/accounting skills, computer literate. Experience of senior level is essential. 20 hrs/week. £15,000 per annum. Please fax your c.v. to me at 01932 673333

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You are articulate with impeccable dress and style, a hands on creative juggler with boundless energy, tenacious, and able to plan your workload with military precision.

CALL HANIF HAISEY LAROCHE [Rec. Gen] on 0171 287 1115 or fax 0171 474 3576, GRAFTON HOUSE, 2/2 GOLDEN SQUARE, LONDON W1R 3AD.

CLOSING DATE: 30 JUNE 1997

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Fax No. 0171 371 1949.

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Call Anna for some objective careers advice.

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IS-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 5260

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**£15,500 + 5 wks hols + bonus**

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IS-21 Jermyn Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6HP Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Facsimile: 0171 734 5260

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## HODGE

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RACING: CECIL LAVISHES HIGH PRAISE ON HIS BRILLIANT WINNER OF PRINCE OF WALES'S STAKES

# Bosra Sham in a class of her own

By CHRIS MCGRATH

AT A meeting so floridly devoted to the way things look, Bosra Sham yesterday reminded the Royal Ascot throng that true class comes from within. The filly put up one of the great modern Ascot performances when routing her rivals for the Prince of Wales's Stakes by eight lengths and more.

Henry Cecil found himself describing Bosra Sham as the best horse he has ever trained. Though delivered in that determinedly casual drawl, it was a remarkable tribute, given that Cecil has trained



the winners of 19 classics, and this was his 61st success at the royal meeting.

Kieren Fallon produced Bosra Sham two furlongs out and, for a strange moment, time stood still for everyone else. The other five horses seemed to quiver as the odds-on favourite suddenly stretched several lengths clear; even when you realised Alhaarth was still galloping, she was going further away.

"She is remarkable," Cecil said. "She has guts, she is a natural athlete, I think she is a true champion — and I think the public have decided that, too. She is the best horse I



Bosra Sham storms to an eight-length success in the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Royal Ascot yesterday

have ever trained. I hate saying it, because so many good horses have been such friends to me over the years. I never like judging them. But she is something else. Let's try to appreciate her, because we might not get another one like this for some time."

There is little danger of

Fallon, his smiling new stable jockey, failing to appreciate Bosra Sham, ridden last season by the studiously bleak Pat Eddery. Fallon is optimistic that she would stay a mile and a half, but she will stay at ten furlongs for her next race, in the Coral-Eclipse Stakes on July 5. Cecil and Waife Said,

her owner, will then consider whether to step her up for the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, back at Ascot, or drop down to a mile for the Sussex Stakes.

Those daring to take on

Bosra Sham at Sandown may include Starborough, given a fine ride by Frankie Dettori to

win the St James's Palace Stakes, Desert King and Daylani, respective winners of the Irish 2,000 Guineas and the French equivalent, could not muster the pace to challenge as Starborough seized an early lead and quickened off the turn to hold Air Express by a length.

Starborough was fourth in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, but looked a better colt yesterday. The Newmarket-based David Lord, who trains him for Sheikh Mohammed, explained: "I always felt that he would be better going round a bend — it is a hell of a long way in a straight line at Newmarket — and anyway he has improved 7lb to 10lb since."

Lord had been keen to run Starborough in France this weekend, but the owner changed his mind for him. The sheikh must have considered it a good day's work, all told, as the Queen Anne Stakes had earlier fallen to Allied Forces, also ridden by Dettori — reviving the Godolphin cause after a season of unfamiliar disappointment.

But Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, was under no illusions. "We know we are not in contention for the championship this time, so we are going to move out a lot of the second XI older horses and concentrate on working with the younger horses towards next season. We have a nucleus of 75 two-year-olds, and 20 or 30 older horses will make way for some of them."

Aidan O'Brien, out of luck with Desert King, only had to wait another half-hour before saddling his first Flat winner in Britain, Harbour Master getting up to win the Coventry Stakes. Many expect this remarkable young Irishman one day to rival Cecil's achievements. He will be lucky, however, to train another

Ascot ready to maintain Dunlop's momentum

of the year. He will be lucky, however, to train another

# Balding gives fresh view of Royal Ascot

Jenny MacArthur trails a television presenter with a mission to entertain

**I**t was not the start to Royal Ascot Clare Balding had hoped for as she watched Hidden Meadow, trained and bred by her father Ian, trail in tenth in the opening Queen Anne Stakes yesterday. Although far too professional to betray her emotions on air, Balding, a pivotal figure in the BBC's revitalised Ascot coverage this week, admitted to a sharp sense of disappointment. "My father takes his racing so hard."

A win would have been a timely fillip as Balding, 26, embarked on the four most grueling days of her career. A former president of the Cambridge Union — and champion amateur rider in 1988 and 1989 — she began broadcasting four years ago, reading the racing bulletins on the old Radio Five.

This week, in a move aimed at widening the appeal of the BBC's racing coverage, she introduces the afternoon programme, alongside Julian Wilson, presents the evening highlights and fronts the new daily *First Show* with Jim McGrath.

Her frenetic day started at 7.30am at the hotel in Bracknell where the BBC team is staying. A quick read of the papers was followed by telephone calls to trainers for last minute information. With two uncles as trainers, Toby Balding and Lord Huntingdon, as well as her father, she admires their presentations are a huge advantage.

It is said with feeling. At Ascot two years ago — wearing a fine, feathered creation — she read the next morning of the "dead crow which appeared to have fallen on Clare Balding's head".

Emerging in black and cream she moves straight into rehearsals. By 1.45 she is on air. The next 2½ hours are a whirl of links, interviews and blazer-in-tune with the relaxed image of First

Balding: chatty

Even when live transmission stops — after the fourth race — there is no respite. Links for the highlights have to be recorded. It is only when these are in the can that she can relax. She heads off for a party in the car park given by the trainer, Charlie Brooks. Then it is off to her father's for dinner. "I don't think I made a blunder, but my father will find something to say. After Goodwood he said I bobbed my head too much."

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## Tayseer ready to maintain Dunlop's momentum

**2.30:** Nightbird is arguably the form choice judged on her success from Elegant Warning at Newmarket but, significantly, Frankie Dettori has opted to ride stablemate Kahal, untraced this term but highly regarded when with Ed Dunlop last year. The in-form Dunlop runs Tayseer, who gets the vote. He beat Fly To The Stars (who landed the Britannia yesterday) at Redcar last season and came from near last to win a competitive York handicap this term. Among Men has won both his starts and is progressive, along with Meshhed, but the main danger is Shaheen, who appreciated the step back to seven furlongs when winning at Kempton 18 days ago.

**3.05:** The trio to concentrate on are Ascot Cyclone, Daunting Lady and Heeremandi. Ascot Cyclone won a fast-run Bath maiden impressively, the form of which was boosted by

recent victory of the runner-up, Daunting Lady, who won both her starts and the form of her latest success at Chester has worked out. However, after the success of Harbour Master yesterday, Heeremandi can provide Aidan O'Brien with another Ascot success. The winner of a Fairyhouse maiden by six lengths, she was even more impressive in England last season, caused a surprise when winning the Irish 1,000 Guineas at 20-1 and, although she has undoubtedly improved, the Curragh form looks slightly suspect. The only doubt is whether there will be a

sufficiently strong pace to bring the favourite's stamina into play.

**4.20:** Most of the pace is on the far side, with horses such as Sky Done, Lonely Leader and Afterxeres likely to blaze the trail. That should help Gold Spats, who won with something in hand at Goodwood last month, and Crown Court, who has been laid out for this. Both would prefer some ease in the ground, and Yalta looks a

bigger danger from those drawn high. However, it may be worth taking a risk with Dancing Image, drawn three, as Harbour Master showed yesterday there is a faster strip of ground near the stands' rail. The Queen's runner ran a cracker over seven furlongs behind Godge on his debut at Goodwood. Mawingo and Bold Words are others to consider.

**4.55:** Shii-Take ran respectably in the 2,000 Guineas before finishing third to Grapeshot at Goodwood but is not certain to appreciate this extended trip. In contrast, Sausalito Bay can be expected to improve over this trip. However, the two runners that interest me most are Winter Garden and Public Purse. Winter Garden showed his best form when just beaten in a competitive handicap at Newbury before winning easily at Salisbury. The Old Vic colt would

appreciate some rain. Public Purse, trained by Andre Fabre, impressed deeply when winning a newcomers' event at Saint-Cloud and is a confident choice.

**5.30:** Whitechapel is no backnumber despite being a nine-year-old, as he

showed when winning at Newbury

on his seasonal reappearance last month. He is still well handicapped and likes this track but needs easier ground. Luca Cumani and his jockey were lined under the "non-triers" rule after Zaraska put up an eye-catching performance at York last month. He should be whereabouts but I am keen on Waldbha Sands, who was ridden with an eye to the future when finishing fifth behind Give Me A Ring at York five weeks ago. Docklands Limo is well handicapped and rates as the best outsider.

RICHARD EVANS

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.05 DAUNTING LADY. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.45 Sleepytime. 4.20 Gold Spats. 5.30 COPS PETITE (map).

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## THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

SPORT 43

### NOTTINGHAM

**THUNDERER**  
6.50 Mystic Quest, 7.20 Thersea, 7.50 Cape Hope,  
8.20 Tracking, 8.50 Diamond Crown, 9.20 Enchanting  
Eve.

**GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH BEST SIS**

**6.50 SHADWELL STUD APPRENTICES SKY**

**SERIES HANDICAP (25,000, 5F) R Badenham 8-9-12 - H Badenham 3**

1 0105 TURGENEV 25 (8,000) R Badenham 8-9-12 - H Badenham 3  
2 0050 DANCING CAVALIER 11 (C3,000) R Badenham 8-9-12 - H Badenham 3  
3 0449 SHERIFF 50 (F, 6,000) R Badenham 8-9-12 - H Badenham 3  
4 0205 HARRY'S TREAT 25 (F, 6,000) R Badenham 8-9-12 - H Badenham 3  
5 0455 FLAGSTAFF 28 (V, 6,000) R Badenham 8-9-12 - H Badenham 3  
6 0001 ROYAL REBEL 25 (F, 6,000) R Badenham 8-9-12 - H Badenham 3  
7 0222 MYSTIC QUEST 22 (F, 6,000) R Badenham 8-9-12 - H Badenham 3  
8 0605 EARL PEACE 22 (F, 6,000) R Badenham 8-9-12 - H Badenham 3  
9 0205 MY ROSSIN 12 (F, 6,000) R Badenham 8-9-12 - H Badenham 3  
10 0201 ROSE OF GLENN 19 (F, 6,000) R Badenham 8-9-12 - H Badenham 3  
11 0202 WESLEY'S LAD 30 (F, 6,000) R Badenham 8-9-12 - H Badenham 3  
12 0414 PRINCE QUEST 3-1 - Dancer Camper, My Rosette, 6-1 Short 1 others  
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## CRICKET

# England aiming to lift World Cup to new dimension

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CRICKET has travelled a vast distance, often across uncomfortable terrain, since England staged the first World Cup in 1975. Quite how far became plain at Lord's yesterday, where Disney World was unveiled as a future venue for international cricket and the 1999 World Cup was launched to a background of strident rock music in the Long Room.

One could almost imagine eyebrows being raised on the portraits adorning the noble *venue as the sacrifice took place below*. They would be raised still further over the figure of £40 million, a conservative forecast of revenue from the event before a single ticket is sold.

Money and evangelical zeal are behind the Disney project. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has agreed to help to establish a stadium in Orlando, Florida, with a view to staging triangular one-day series, the first in the autumn of 1998.

That was one clear development to emerge from an ICC meeting that agreed on a new corporate structure to aid swift

decision-taking, but then delayed a verdict on a Test match world championship. There is goodwill behind the idea, though, and a high-powered sub-committee has been asked to report back by December.

That committee will also consider — and hopefully reject — the proposal to stage the World Cup every two years rather than every four. Any doubt that this would diminish the event was dispelled yesterday when ambitious plans for the 1999 tournament, still two years distant, were released.

The presentation was a slick, modern affair. Preempting a later remark by David Richards, the chief executive of the ICC, that "other sports are overtaking us at a rate of knots", it acknowledged the need for cricket to compete for the corporate dollar and for the young sporting audience. It also, reassuringly, addressed various areas in which the last World Cup fell short.

The 1999 tournament will begin, as it should, with a

match between hosts and England, abysmal failures in 1996, will play Sri Lanka, the unexpected champions, at Lord's. This compares favourably with a bizarre choice of opening match, between England and New Zealand, at Ahmedabad last February.

Two groups of six will operate on a round-robin system and the top three from each will proceed to a second round, from which the semi-finalists will emerge. This, too, is an improvement on the previous format.

Each of the 12 competing countries will be hosted by a county club during a fortnight of preparation. An itinerary of warm-up games, three per country, has already been finalised. Scotland will be hosted close to home, in Durham, before travelling to Worcester for their opening game, against Australia.

There will be no title sponsor for the tournament. Instead, the England and Wales Cricket Board, the organiser, is negotiating with "global partners" — eight companies each expected to put in around £2 million. The first two, Vodafone and NatWest bank, were named yesterday.

The kitz will be topped up by official suppliers, with tournament merchandise ranging from computer games to replica kit and hospitality packages. There are logos, mascots and a catchphrase — "It's not just cricket".

The last World Cup produced £12 million through television and England expect to do better. The challenge of those doing the deals, however, is to maximise their negotiating power while observing an undertaking that important national events will be widely available. The final, scheduled for Sunday, June 20, at Lord's, will be shared between satellite and terrestrial television, but other matches, including the semi-finals at Old Trafford and Edgbaston, will be sold exclusively.

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Line and Length

CAST your mind back a year to the Lord's Test and what comes up? It may be the first day hundred by Inzamam-ul-Haq, the absurd dismissal of Ijaz Ahmed, bowled as he attempted to do the Gay Gordons, the defiance of Atherton and Stewart on the last day, or, more likely, the surrender to Mushtaq Ahmed that followed their departure.

It seems longer ago than it actually was, so different is the mood of the side today. Only Atherton, Stewart, Thorpe and Ealham remain from that XI, which goes to show how much England have reshaped their team in the past year.

Of the seven players who do not remain, there is no doubt who has fallen farthest. In time, the Test may be remembered as Graeme Hick's last for England. Yesterday, as the players gathered at Lord's, Hick was preparing to play for Worcestershire. Nothing is certain in life, wrote Benjamin Franklin, except death and taxes, but Hick's position as an international cricketer looks ever more remote.

The last time that he appeared in these columns, the piece was disinterred in a cricket magazine under the misleading headline: Flash hack slays Hick — the only correct thing about it being "Hick". So let it be clear at the outset: I bear the man no malice. It is just that he was given more chances than any batsman to justify his place in the team — and, what is more, he jolly nearly did.

After he made a hundred at Pretoria in November 1995, which followed a century against West Indies at Not-

ttingham the previous summer (and, better still, a brilliant 67 to help to swing the memorable Lord's Test), Hick seemed to have overcome his fear of heights. It was then that he looked down, and his head went all woody. You do not ask people like that to make the climb again.

What we see now is a batsman who, at the apparent zenith of his powers with his ambition scarcely diminished, is regressing. True, he made a century at Bristol last Saturday, but he is clearly not the player he used to be, and, so long as Stewart and Thorpe, Hussain and Crawley get on with it, there can be no way back.

The winter of was supposed to have refreshed him. He said little about his plans, but David Houghton, the coach at Worcestershire, and an old friend from Zimbabwe, could not keep quiet for more than a few days without

telling the world that his man was ready to fill his boots. Last weekend, after the Bristol hundred, there was a volte-face. Hick had begun the season poorly, said Houghton, because there was a lot of daft talk about how many runs he was going to make.

It is no good saying that Hick is only 31 and that his best years lie ahead. His best years were in his early twenties, before he had been exposed to the psychological rigours of Test cricket. He has been dropped five times by England since his debut in 1991, and has never recaptured the freedom that he enjoyed in those innocent, early days beside the Severn.

Graham Gooch gave Hick some encouraging advice earlier this year, saying that his own best years came after the age of 30. He may as well have compared bread with cheese. Gooch, different to Hick in every respect, is a

RUSSELL BOYCE

## Patel puts match practice to good use

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

**THE PARKS** (final day of three): Oxford University drew with Nottinghamshire

IF Nottinghamshire seriously planned to beat Oxford University for the first time in eight years, rather than opting for match-practice, their tactical aberration was battoning on for 50 minutes in the morning. It enabled Tim Robinson, back after a month's absence with a broken hand, to complete a three-hour half-century, but the extension of the innings was counterproductive.

Ultimately, Oxford were challenged to make 367 to win in four hours plus 20 overs — 83 runs more than their previous highest total this summer. They took the bold route to an honourable draw, with half-centuries from James Fulton and Chetan Patel after three wickets had tumbled in 12 balls in mid-afternoon.

When Nottinghamshire abandoned their hopes of victory with nine overs still available, Patel had hit eight fours, reached his third fifty of the summer, raised his run aggregate to 360 at an average of almost 33 and justified Hampshire's faith in offering him a summer contract after the forthcoming University match. Fulton also excelled, frustrating the spin bowlers before being caught off bat and paid to provide one of James Hindson's four wickets for 97.

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**: First Innings: 324 for 4 dec (P. Pollard 100; A. Mattole 76; G. Archer 50 not out). Second Innings: M. P. Dowman b Patel ..... 13 R. T. Robinson not out ..... 61 N. A. Gao c Byme b Patel ..... 80 C. G. R. Lewis c & b Patel ..... 17 R. T. Bates c Scott & Averis ..... 4 J. E. Hindson not out ..... 6 Extras (b, 4, 6, 3, w, 26, nc, 8) ..... 41 Total (4 wkt dec) ..... 168 Fall of WICKETS: 1-29; 2-138; 3-140; 4-147. Bowling: Avenue 16-3-44-2; Patel 17-3-65-2; Bates 5-10-15; Byme 5-1-20-0; Wagh 4-1-12-0. Oxford University: First Innings: 124 (J. E. Hindson 4 for 20). Second Innings: N. G. Parin lbw b Franklin ..... 0 B. W. Byrne lbw b Hindson ..... 38 C. G. R. Lewis lbw b Franklin ..... 17 P. G. Morgan lbw b Bates ..... 0 J. A. G. Fulton c Gao b Hindson ..... 51 R. T. Hindson not out ..... 62 Extras (b, 7, 3, nc, 2) ..... 12 Total (6 wkt) ..... 246 Fall of WICKETS: 1-0; 2-22; 3-43; 4-53; 5-53; 6-181. Bowling: Franklin 11-2-221; Patel 8-2-25-2; Archer 3-0-15; Bates 32-6-74-1; Hindson 34-9-74-1; Utopia, K. E. Palmer and P. Wiley.



Hick contemplates his future and an international career clouded in uncertainty

## WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

May 28: England v India (at Edgbaston); Zimbabwe v South Africa (at Old Trafford); New Zealand, Pakistan, Scotland, West Indies.
Final match
May 14: England v Sri Lanka (at Lord's); May 15: Sri Lanka v South Africa (at Headingley); May 16: Sri Lanka v Kenya (at Headingley); May 17: Zimbabwe v Kenya (at Taunton); May 18: Australia v Scotland (at Worcester); May 19: West Indies v Pakistan (at Bristol); May 20: New Zealand v Bangladesh (at Chelmsford); May 21: England v Kenya (at Canterbury); May 22: Sri Lanka v South Africa (at Old Trafford); May 23: Australia v Zimbabwe (at Leicester); May 24: West Indies v New Zealand (at Birmingham); May 25: Scotland v Bangladesh (at Edinburgh); May 26: England v Zimbabwe (at Trent Bridge); May 27: Sri Lanka v India (at Taunton); May 28: South Africa v Kenya (at Ammanford); May 29: West Indies v Scotland (at Chelmsford); May 30: Australia v Bangladesh (at Chelmsford); May 31: New Zealand v Pakistan (at Derby)

## LEGAL &amp; PUBLIC NOTICES

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

## LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, CHAMBERS REVEREND HENRY DAWSON, DISTRICT REGISTRAR IN THE COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF LONDON, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORDSHIRE, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF WARWICK, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF DERBY, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAM, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF YORKSHIRE, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF THE CITY OF LIVERPOOL, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF THE CITY OF BRISTOL, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF THE CITY OF CARDIFF, LTD, AND IN THE COUNTY OF 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Patel puts  
match  
practice to  
good use

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

# Gray ponders return to sport's firing line

I JUST don't understand what's going off out there... words that are part of the English sporting lore, words of Fred Trueman once again slaggering off a young English cricketer who is playing for his life and his future.

"And Bob Willis now knows he can never be a fast bowler." This was the line that prompted me to launch the concept of the Truemanism in my Saturday column — a Truemanism being a statement that is instantly contradicted by actual events. Willis, as I remember, went on to take five wickets in the session.

The joys of uninhibited, reckless criticism run very deep and so do the pleasures of praising one's own youth. Sport being as huge an industry now, any former player with a *pomme frite* on his shoulder can reach a decent audience (and often make a few quid) by slagging off present players.

Thus we have Fred Timus having a pop at Michael Atherton, who sets a record tomorrow for Test matches as England captain. Useless, Timus says, when compared with the man he beats, Peter May.

Then we have Geoffrey Boycott, who called Dominic Cork "a showpony and a prima donna with an attitude problem". This hurt, mainly because it is not without all truth. Cork's groin strain is a problem, but the thing that the poor boy has never recovered from is achieving a hat-trick in a Test match.

The former player turned media celebrity has become part of the sporting industry, in every sport. You would never get Brian Johnston and John Arlott leading *Test Match Special* these days.

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

The big jobs go to former players, poachers desperate for the few well-paid gamekeeper's jobs. This has long been a tradition in cricket; now it has become part of football as well. Your past sporting record grants you the right to speak loudly and glibly on — well, almost anything. There is a nice story in Simon Hughes's book, *A Load of Hard Yakka*, in which Hughes corrects Ian Botham's pronunciation of an Italian cheese. Botham, enraged, rounds on Hughes: "How many Test wickets did you take?"

You cannot argue with facts like that, you see. There is nothing like retirement from sport to make people forget their own fears, anxieties, failures. Being a professional athlete is a brutal business. Being a professional commentator is a great deal easier.

Andy Gray had a famous set-to with Ron Atkinson, then boss of Coventry City, when he accused his

team of lacking fight. A former player with a high-profile media job, such as Gray, such as Boycott, is in a position to enjoy one of the greatest luxuries in life — power without responsibility.

Most players are content to set aside the life of strife when the time comes. A talent for communicating your game is not to be sneezed at; it is a pleasant life, demanding enough not to be dull, but you know that neither a row of noughts nor a torn ligament can ever tear your life asunder again.

Which leads us to the extraordinary phenomenon of Gray, reportedly on the edge of accepting the job of Everton manager. Surely nobody in his senses would leave a job as Sky Sports' top football man in exchange for the windswept wilderness of football management.

Already people are queuing up to say that Gray must be mad, stark raving bonkers, even to think of it. These people have not been professional athletes, or even members of the legion of former pros. They are not people in whom the love of strife burns extra deep.

There is a sense in which the artist will always a little despite the critic, no matter how good; a sense in which the critic will always envy the artist, no matter how poor. For the fact of the matter is, when all is said and done, a critic is a eunuch in the harem.

Those who preach to Gray of the joys of a gelding's life of ease have a point, but Gray may yet reject the chance of lying forever by the still waters of television and get up the sharp end once again. If he does so, I salute him. He'd be mad to do it. A rather cheering kind of madness, on the whole.

Keith Blackmore sees two of baseball's oldest clubs battle for local supremacy after a hiatus of 91 years

**T**he rain that fell on the Chicago Bulls' victory parade in Grant Park on Monday stopped just in time to allow the first competitive meeting of this city's baseball clubs for more than 90 years to go ahead. The change of weather could hardly have been more symbolic.

Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox have grown used to working in the giant shadows cast by Michael Jordan and his team, and the Bulls' latest celebrations, for their fifth National Basketball Association championship in seven years, seemed perfectly timed to obscure the most important baseball game in the city since 1906.

Success and the Chicago clubs have become strangers long since their last meeting, when the "hiltless wonders" of the White Sox beat the Cubs 4-2 in the World Series. They have also become strangers to each other.

For two of the oldest teams in the sport, that short six-game series was the sum of their meaningful competition. The Cubs were founder members of the National League, the Sox among the creators of the American League. The peculiarities of the Major League system have always meant that teams from the different organisations could meet only by winning their own league and then representing it in the annual World Series.

In 1908, the Cubs actually won the Series, but it was the last time. They have been back since, most recently in 1945, but have never won and the club has become an affectionate metaphor for futile endeavour in American sport.



Foster, of the Cubs, prepares to pitch during the first inning of the historic game between the two Chicago clubs on Monday

The White Sox won the Series again in 1917 and reached it once more in 1919, but then came the defining moment of the club's history. They lost to Cincinnati and subsequently eight of their players, including the legendary Shoeless Joe Jackson, were banned for life for allegedly fixing the result. A jury failed to convict any of the

That opportunity attracted more than 30,000 people to Comiskey Park, home of the White Sox, for the first of three games. This was a real "subway series"; the respective homes of the two teams are separated only by a dozen stops on the Red Line of the Chicago Transit Authority.

For those Chicagoans who stared out to the field and thought that they must be dreaming, there was another special effect. The Cubs were wearing the elegant, all-dark blue uniforms of their 1911 predecessors. The White Sox were clad in the simple white outfits of the 1917 World Series winners.

This time, the Cubs won 8-3, in a game filled with fielding heroics and free of errors. They took a big lead early, pummelling Jaime Navarro, the White Sox pitcher, for six runs in the first three innings, then hung on as the White Sox tried to claw their way back.

For Mark Grace, the Cubs first baseman, whose excellent personal contributions over the past nine years have not been matched by the performance of his team, it was a strange feeling. "We have all been saying it was just another game, but it wasn't," he said. "The fans made it much more exciting. I didn't think we would ever see it and I am proud to have taken part."

The crowd, in fact, may have been the biggest bonus. Early indications are that the inter-league experiment — in which every team plays 15 games against local rivals in the other league, the results to count in their respective divisional tables — has been a success. Attendances for the first games over the weekend were up almost 40 per cent on last year and that figure was likely to increase when the big attractions, such as the Chicago series and that between the New York Yankees and Mets, had been taken into account.

## Stewart on cue for Pinewood

MR D. Carter, of Beccles, Suffolk, wins the weekly prize for the interactive Team Cricket game.

Mr Carter's team, Pinewood 3, scored 2,327 points last week, mainly due to Alec Stewart's double century for Surrey, against Yorkshire, and Paul Strang's 11 wickets for Kent, against Lancashire.



The prize this week is a print of David Gower, signed and framed, and a first edition of the PCA Year Book 97, signed by members of the Professional Cricketers' Association and two tickets to a Test match this summer.

PINEWOOD: S. Barnes; G. Thorpe (Leeds); J. Stewart (Surrey); D. A. Groombridge (Norfolk); A. P. Grayson (Essex); J. P. Stephenson (Hampshire); Al-Maden (Suffolk); G. Gossage (Somerset); D. Gough (Yorkshire); G. Rose (Somerset); B.C. Northcote (Surrey); G. Welch (Worcestershire).

## HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

Each team, depending on when it is registered, will be allocated a number of transfer allowances. If you register in May, you will be entitled to make transfers in July, August and September, in July and August in August, four and in September, May and June in September.

You may use as many or as few as you want, but they must replace like for like, one bowler for another bowler. All transfers must be made before a first-class match. Transfers can be made freely at any time, transfers made in one calendar period may become effective for the matches which begin in the next calendar period.

The transfer lists open on Wednesday May 21 and will remain open for the season.

Transfers may be made by telephone or fax.

YOU may check your team score and position in TIC by calling

0898 884 884 (0898 100 349 outside UK)

0898 884 884 (0898 100 349 outside UK)

QUERIES on all other TIC matters, including details of how to enter, should be made to

01522 702220

## THE LEADING 100 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM CRICKET GAME



Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
1	Totkin (A Luckhurst)	10118
2	Acc All Rounders (A Eade)	9979
3	Four Ian Bothams (P Johnson)	9937
4	Bob Willis (P Johnson)	9937
5	14 Lots (P Johnson)	9799
6	All Round Abys (W Burnard)	9796
7	Dave's Dependables (D Tarcock)	9785
8	Carrots & A (A Luckhurst)	9775
9	Geoffrey Gunks (M J Barber)	9775
10	Gazza's Gunks (C Hawkins)	9775
11	Denn's Dynamics (Miss D Shepherd)	9707
12	Nine Ian Bothams (P Johnson)	9704
13	Immy First XI (J Hurst)	9692
14	100% (A Luckhurst)	9677
15	Tony Ross (A Luckhurst)	9656
16	John's Best (G Gentry)	9656
17	Points Galore (P Johnson)	9651
18	Forus (W Clarke)	9651
19	Wings With A (P Johnson)	9649
20	Men's Scream (S Simmonds)	9649
21	Rug Catchers (A Reed)	9627
22	Ward's Wicketkeepers (A Ward)	9619
23	Three Lots (P Johnson)	9610
24	Wendy's Winkers (D Minter)	9607
25	Two Diners (D Tarcock)	9607
26	Two Diners (D Tarcock)	9607
27	Two Diners (D Tarcock)	9607
28	Lamar Old Boys (P Tranter)	9587
29	Cats Eyes (N Macbeth)	9583
30	Caroline & C (A Luckhurst)	9583
31	Shirley For Fun (M Hase)	9583
32	Two Diners (D Tarcock)	9583
33	Off Spinners (A Mirov)	9583
34	8 Miles High (R Rao)	9583
35	Fantasy Formik (J Cutchley)	9517
36	1997/98 (M J Hutchinson)	9517
37	Wise Men (G Evans)	9503
38	M J S 1 (M Botham)	9503
39	Tommer's Terriers (P Tompkins)	9500
40	Dooyeddy (J Roystone)	9500
41	The Funky Monkeys (A Miss)	9495
42	Venky & Vintage No. (—)	9495
43	Sons Of Gitz (A Weich)	9485
44	Friday Night XI (P McFerran)	9475
45	Off To A Good Start (J Swales)	9468
46	Shadow Leader (J Findlay)	9468
47	Don't Forget to Run (Rowens)	9467
48	The Twins (D Colman)	9455
49	Coleman's Babes (D Blackburn)	9450
50	Kamikaze Bowler (D Finlay)	9448
51	Orchid & O (N Jones)	9437
52	Two Diners (D Tarcock)	9437
53	The One And Only (S Hatcher)	9430
54	Madridees A (D J Mead)	9427

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
55	Spencer's XI (S Samuels)	9411
56	Hab's Corkers 4 (N Habib)	9404
57	Sharp & Sleaven (M Sharp)	9402
58	Wise Men (P Tarcock)	9401
59	Foray For Fun (D Clutchley)	9397
60	Toy Boys (G Jackson)	9397
61	Hodger's Grove (D Payne)	9389
62	Wimble Asterix (A Mirov)	9382
63	Diamond White (R White)	9375
64	Dees & Sons (B I Dees)	9373
65	Wise Men (P Tarcock)	9372
66	Teedy For Bruce (—)	9371
67	The Runnts (D Tatton)	9370
68	The Warne Factor (D Finlay)	9368
69	Black Sox (J Suttor)	9367
70	Ward's Winkers (D Tatton)	9366
71	Two Diners (D Tarcock)	9365
72	Madridees B (N Jones)	9361
73	Canterbury Crusade (L Scott)	9359

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
74	Aaron First XI (P Edwards)	9357
75	Edward Ross (A Luckhurst)	9354
76	S R Smokey (S P Varni)	9347
77	No More Friction Cup (E Elks)	9346
78	99 (G E Housden)	9342
79	Wells Fargo (G E Housden)	9333
80	Debt Release (G Lamberg)	9325
81	Weis Fargo (G E Housden)	9325
82	Jones Boys 2 (I Jones)	9319
83	Diamond White (R White)	9319
84	Dees & Sons (B I	

## TENNIS

# Progress of Lee stalled by strength of opponent

By RICHARD HOBSON

HIS record as a junior suggests that Martin Lee has the latent talent to become the next British player to break into the top fifty ranked players in the world. Whether he is able to emulate his form in under-18 competitions on the senior circuit, though, depends on his response to the setbacks that will inevitably befall him.

There was plenty to learn from his 6-1, 6-1 defeat by Karol Kucera in the first round of the Nottingham Open yesterday, but Lee, 19, suggested afterwards that he was able to digest the lessons. Quite simply, he was overpowered by Kucera, a stronger and fresher Slovakian. He won just seven points from as many games against his opponent's service in a match that lasted 38 minutes.

Lee had risen 18 places to No.382 in the latest world rankings after his success in reaching the third round in the Stella Artois tournament.

Miles MacLagan, the Great Britain No.10, completed a 6-4, 6-3 win over Dan Lobb, his compatriot, yesterday in the Wimbledon qualifying tournament at Roehampton. However, Colin Beecher, the British No.11, lost 6-0, 6-3 to Guillermo Canas of Argentina, while Colin Bennett succumbed 7-5, 6-3 to Peter Tramacchi of Australia.

At Queen's Club, where he lost to Goran Ivanisevic, and in emerging through the qualifying stages to reach the main draw here, on Monday he played two doubles qualifying matches and, despite extensive work on his fitness before playing at Queen's, he believes that a few more hours in the gymnasium before Wimbledon next week will be time well spent.

"I spent the two weeks before Queen's in the gym, with virtually no tennis at all and that helped me enormously, but the match with Kucera showed that I still have to become more powerful to compete," Lee said. "Some of that will come naturally as I grow, so it is not a major problem. I will be working on improving my body strength, but not at the cost of overlooking weaknesses in my game."

"This has been a great week for me, but now there will be

pressure because people know a little bit more about me. It was difficult to come from the crowds at Queen's to the qualifying here, where there were two people watching, so I was pleased to come through."

Lee, a former world junior No.1 in singles and doubles, will face Nuno Marques, the experienced Portuguese player, at Wimbledon, having been given the wild card.

Marques is ranked No.129 in the world, but has never progressed beyond the first round. "I have seen him play a couple of times and I am very, very happy with the draw," Lee said.

Kucera, his own fitness barely tested, will play Byron Black in the second round at Nottingham. Black beat Todd Woodbridge, the No.7 seed, in three sets, leaving the top quarter of the draw open after the defeat of Carlos Moyá, the No.1 seed, on Monday.

Talk of Wimbledon dominated play on the second day, particularly during a rain-enforced interruption of an hour. Daniel Nestor, like Lee a qualifier, discovered that he will be facing Tim Henman next week, and proceeded to lose 6-1, 7-6 to Grant Stanford, of South Africa. "I am not that confident in my singles play," Nestor said. "I am thinking too much about small technical things and that is making it worse. I have nothing to lose against Tim in his own country so I will just swing away and hope for the best."

Chris Wilkinson, rarely at his best, lost to Marc-Kevin Göhlner, while Sandon Stolle earned a second round tie against Kenneth Carlsson, the conqueror of Marcelo Rios, when he overcame Arnoud Boetsch. Rios was merely the first seeded casualty of a tournament that is open in every sense. Jim Courier, the former world No.1, was taken to a third set by Johan van Herck and Gustavo Kuerten, the No.3 seed, hardly exuded confidence going into his tie against Greg Rusedski — which was justified when Rusedski, the British No.2, breezed through the first set, winning it 6-1 in 18 minutes.

Kuerten, the French Open champion and a beaten finalist in Bologna last weekend, announced that he will give a press conference in Birmingham on Saturday — final days in Nottingham.

Ranked No.79 in the world, a rise of 125 places since

December, Williams, at 6ft 2in, has been described as the Tiger Woods of tennis and her service sometimes bears comparison to his thunderous driving. She opened with an ace, won her first two service games to love and was also prepared to slug it out at the net. The effort put into every shot brought a sharp escape of breath, although not on the scale of, for example, Monica Seles, and her game is hard on her racket, two succumbing during the match. Nevertheless, she showed a delicacy of touch in taking the ninth game before breaking Rubin to win the first set.

It was not plain sailing. She was broken twice in the first set and once in the second, although broke back immediately on both occasions. "She served OK against me, which is her strength," Rubin said, "but not great."

Rubin, ranked No.20 and a finalist here two years ago, attracted less attention, despite her own recovery from a hand injury, but did not mind talking about her conqueror.

"She hasn't played a lot of tournaments, but everyone knows her, although they are still curious to see how she plays," she said. "As long as she is playing well, it's fitting that all the attention is on her. It's an interesting story."

Williams herself was visibly more comfortable discussing clothes than tennis. The silver-grey outfit that she sported may give Wimbledon officials heart failure, but they will be relieved to know that it also comes in white. The BBC sound crews could experience problems with the noise of her beaded locks. Opponents will have the service, a venomous two-handed backhand and a variety of other potential winning shot to think about.

Elsewhere, the only seed to fall was Mary Joe Fernandez, beaten by Natalie Tauziat, who defeated Rubin in the 1995 final. Shirlie-Ann Siddall, the British No.2, lost in three sets to Ai Sugiyama, of Japan, while Jo Ward, the British qualifier, ranked No.33 in the world, failed to set up a second-round meeting with Monica Seles after losing 6-2, 7-5 to Naoko Sawamatsu.

Williams, to the rattle of beads in her hair, drives a forehand during her win yesterday

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

BEING a Jehovah's Witness, Venus Williams does not celebrate birthdays, but she marked her 17th yesterday with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Chanda Rubin, her American compatriot, advanced to the second round of the Direct Line championships at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. Not bad for only her fourth competitive game on grass.

There are not many grass courts in Compton, in Los Angeles, where she grew up, nor even in Florida, where her family now lives, and she chose to play through the qualifiers in order to familiarise herself with the surface. It seems to have been successful.

"I suppose so," she said when asked if she now regards herself as a grass-court player. "I need to come to the net a little more. I never serve and volley that much; it really will help my game." Last time I played Chanda, she annihilated me. I knew I had to be more aggressive and I think the surface helped me a lot, too."

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Williams herself was visibly more comfortable discussing clothes than tennis. The silver-grey outfit that she sported may give Wimbledon officials heart failure, but they will be relieved to know that it also comes in white. The BBC sound crews could experience problems with the noise of her beaded locks. Opponents will have the service, a venomous two-handed backhand and a variety of other potential winning shot to think about.

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# I believe you, George. Thousands wouldn't

I am having a spot of bother with my so-called peer group. Believing them that is. I mean, William Hague must be lying about his age, that's obvious. But what about George Clooney, the silver-tipped, twinkly-eyed star of *ER* who is soon to play Batman? On last night's *Film 97* with Barry Norman (BBC1) he just casually dropped the fact that he was 35 into the conversation four times. Four times? Methinks he doth protest too much.

Yes sir, 35 was the age to be, gurgled the much-older-looking Clooney in that dark brown voice that would get most 35-year-olds laughing at if they tried it. It was the perfect age to play the leading man, it meant you still had "great television hair" (not in Hague's case, but then he says he's 36) and you get to snag Michelle Pfeiffer. Norman shifted uneasily in his chair, as he does every time La

Pfeiffer is mentioned, and made a token effort to change the subject. "Financially, do you actually still need to work?" Clooney thought not. "Hey, at 35 that's a great position to be in." Thank you, George, I think we got the message.

Presumably because this was *Film 97*, there was only token mention of *ER*, the television series that turned Clooney into a star. There was a brief clip of Dr Ross (Clooney) doing something clever with a hypodermic but no mention of the kiss that brought the series to an arrest-inducing close a fortnight ago. I am not convinced that Norman even knows who Nurse Hathaway is.

Instead we had all sorts of clips from films that I hadn't seen. This was partly because some have not come out yet, partly because I don't go to the cinema any more (well, if you watched television all day, would you go to the cinema for

fun?) and partly because when I did still go, Clooney was making films such as *Return of the Killer Tomatoes*.

I tried to do as much bad television as possible so that other people didn't have to do it," he explained, showing that all those months at the Hug High Grant school of self-effacement had not been wasted. Acting ability counted for very little when it came to casting, it was presence that counted. "You are selling confidence — that's what people want to buy." It had, he admitted to Norman, taken him some years to realise that. But now, at 35... oh, please.

Nomarking the age Kevin Whately is supposed to be in *The Broker's Man* (BBC1). He's that age old enough to have parted company with both his wife and mistress, but young enough to nurse the hope of winning one or the other back. Old

enough to have two teenage children, but young enough to be working so hard that he hardly gets to see them. I think we can say we are on familiar ground.

Like every other actor who has left *Peak Practice*, Whately has clearly had enough of playing nice. But instead of going to Cambridge to play Dr Sam something, the renowned whistler, he opted for Jimmy Griffin, a former detective

turned insurance investigator. His job is to stop the insurance companies having to pay out (something I thought they were very good at anyway) either by recovering the "stolen" goods or by proving a claim is not legitimate. Had that chef really lost his sense of taste and smell? I'm not sure I could bear the suspense.

Actually, the insurance side of things was not too bad. The chef and his fastebuds were just a comic subplot, the main story concerned the violent theft of a container-load of digital cassettes. Now the thieves were offering to sell them back to the insurance company for a great deal less than their insured value ... unless Griffin could stop them. Lots of electric guitar music indicated that this was exciting — and it was, moderately.

The problem was Griffin himself. He is not so much nasty as dull, and has a tiresome habit of

climbing on to ethical high horses when it is far from clear that they are his to climb on. "I'm not signing this off," he said fiercely. Given that his fee was £12 grand and the insurers were already a million down, I am not convinced that it was his call. But then, as I don't really know what "signing off" signifies, perhaps I should wait for part two before finally making up my mind. First impressions, however, are that Whately will have to be at his very best to turn this one into a winner.

Over on Channel 4, someone had come up with the promising idea of examining the sibling bond in *My Sister*. Unfortunately, after an encouraging opening few minutes when a small assortment of people waxed emotional about their sisters, that promising idea got lost. Perhaps that was inevitable. We all, after all, have different stories to tell.

Annie Paul, the director, chose to concentrate on just three, a decision which ensured that by the end we knew a great deal about the people involved, but which made it difficult to come up with generalisations. Furthermore, Paul had died at the extremes of her subject — the elder sister who became a surrogate mother to her younger brother and sisters while their parents' marriage broke down; the sisters estranged by the death of one parent and then brought back together 20 years later by the death of the other, and the woman still mourning the death of her sister more than 30 years ago.

By the end, I knew a great deal about what happened to these families but next to nothing about the powerful forces that still bind them together. Perhaps some things, such as sibling bonds and George Clooney's age, are best left a mystery.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (33079)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (38437)
- 8.00 Breakfast News Extra (5595692)
- 9.20 Cheggers' Challenge A romantic meal for two (341476)
- 9.45 Kirby (T) (5588693)
- 10.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (73437)
- 11.00 News (T) and weather (2029925)
- 11.05 The Great Escape Hammamet in Tunisia (7957418)
- 11.35 Royal Ascot Preview of today's meeting (4346302)
- 12.00 News (T) and weather (1589050)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (5789654)
- 12.35 Neighbours (T) (4552470)
- 1.00 News (T) and weather (33318)
- 1.30 Regional News and weather (15616741)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (36811760)
- 1.45 Royal Ascot Coverage of the 2.30 Jersey Stakes, 3.05 Queen Mary Stakes and 3.45 Coronation Stakes. Plus: fashions. Continues on BBC2 (41119234)
- 4.00 Poppey (5589483) 4.10 Gadget Boy (9871586) 4.30 Out of Town (T) (T) (5647050) 5.00 Newround (T) (5589663)
- 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (7226166)
- 5.35 Neighbours (T) (T) (836873)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (857)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazine (437)
- 7.00 Antiques Roadshow In 1992, Simon Bull valued a chronometer from the German fleet scuttled at Scapa Flow while in Orkney. Here, he discusses the history of the ship's clock (T) (1470)
- 7.30 Tomorrow's World Howard Strelford and Shahnaz Palkar round off the series with a review of the year's reports (T) (321)
- 8.00 The National Lottery Live (T) (23283)
- 8.15 Firefighters On Merseyside, White Watch tackle a bedroom blaze started by an over-inquisitive five-year-old, before dealing with a mound of burning rubbish in an alleyway (T) (128944)
- 8.50 Points of View (T) (583470)
- 9.00 News (T) and weather (8505)
- 9.28 National Lottery Update (786166)
- 9.30 Backstage: Presence A fight at a local pub triggers a spate of burglaries on a tough housing estate where the team are running a community policing project, and the finger of suspicion quickly falls on a notorious local family (T) (709215)
- 10.25 An Inside Story Special: Gold Nest Gold Exploring the role played by Switzerland during the Second World War (T) (842437)
- 11.40 Royal Ascot The second day's highlights (448437)
- 12.00 The Babe (1992) Biopic of baseball legend George "Babe" Ruth with John Goodman as the larger-than-life character, notorious for his over-indulgence in food, drink and women, yet famed for his status as a sportsman. Also with Kelly McGillis, Trini Alvarado and Bruce Boxleitner. Directed by Arthur Hiller (T) (612242) WALES: 12.00 Welsh Questions (76548) 12.30pm Film: The Babe (251267) 2.20 News (2814797)
- 1.50 Weather (5642529)

**VoicePlus+** and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode® numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+, VideoCode™ and VideoProgrammes are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: The Birth of Calculus (3183302) 6.25 Sequences (3102437) 6.50 Beating the Morning Rush (7103166)
- 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) and signing (1812147)
- 7.55 Active (T) (4375495) 8.20 Christopher Crocodile (8982789) 8.25 Johnson and Friends (1382673) 8.35 The Record (2579418)
- 9.00 A Passion for Angling (T) (3478708) 9.50 Don't Be an Anorak (T) (2671857) 10.00 Teletribbles (T) (5955554)
- 10.35 Death of a Scoundrel (1956, b/w) A FILM Classic refugee ingrates himself with wealthy women. With George Sanders and Zsa Zsa Gabor. Directed by Charles Martin (19602166)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (82673) 1.00 Johnson and Friends (1025383)
- 1.10 Adam's Rib (1949, b/w) George Cukor's classic war-of-the-sexes comedy with Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn (6318012)
- 2.50 News (T) (2315079) 2.55 Westminster (9018895) 3.55 News (T) (3987841)
- 4.00 Royal Ascot The Royal Hunt Cup over the Old Mile at 4.20 (2546037)
- 4.40 Take a Meal With (4340321) 4.55 Esther: Over-suntanning (T) (5038789) 5.30 Today's the Day (7203215)
- 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (T) (671470)
- 6.45 Cardiff Singer of the World (803302)
- 7.30 Anxiety Attack The Street of Doom Account of how residents of a Northampton street became convinced that environmental factors were damaging their health when five children developed leukaemia despite scientists assurances that the so-called cluster was simply a chance in a million (T) (863)
- 8.00 Call My Bluff (T) (T) (8760)
- 8.30 Yes, Prime Minister Jim has his first encounter with the Foreign Office (T) (7895)
- 9.00 Reparations: Hillary and Tenzing: Everest and After (T) (7389)
- 10.00 International Athletics Highlights from tonight's Grand Prix meeting in Helsinki (56760)
- 10.30 Newsnight with Kirsty Wark (T) (181215) 11.15 Trial by Jury (T) (409363)
- 11.55 Weather (546854)
- 12.00 The Midnight Hour (67890)
- 12.30pm Learning Zone: Open University: Acid (60635) 1.30 Magnetic Fields in Space (84364) 2.00 Nightschool TV: Science (38155) 4.00 BBC Focus: English Heritage (29123) 4.30 Unicef in the Classroom (22390) 5.00 Basic Skills: A Different Way of Doing Things (51282) 5.30 6.00 Voluntary Matters: Managing People (75819)



Tenzing and Hilary (9.00pm)

HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (9374079)
- 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (3422895)
- 9.55 Regional News (T) (4116128)
- 10.00 The Time, the Place (37215)
- 10.30 This Morning (T) (65560708)
- 12.20pm Regional News (T) (5165234)
- 12.30 News (T) and weather (4588895)
- 12.55 Shortland Street (T) (4563586) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (7076857) 1.30 Afternoon Live (3112001) 2.20 Vanessa (T) (7) (2620944) 2.50 Afternoon Live (2223956)
- 3.20 News (T) (3731692)
- 3.25 Regional News (T) (3730963)
- 3.30 Alphabet Castle (T) (3541050) 3.40 Tots TV (8497031) 3.50 Oscar and Friends (T) (3952266) 3.55 Sooey and Co (T) (520657) 4.20 Tiny Toon Adventures (T) (5358418) 4.40 Wavelength (T) (6173760)
- 5.10 Look and Cook (T) (8456760)
- 5.40 News (T) and weather (471609)
- 5.57 Pollen Count (577944)
- 6.00 Home and Away (T) (553876)
- 6.25 HTV Weather (73897)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (T) (505)
- 7.00 Emmerdale: Butch is heartbroken when he spies on Sophie (T) (6166)
- 7.30 Coronation Street Kevin faces a confrontation with a furious Sally (T) (789)
- 8.00 A Taste of Frost: Fun Time for Swingers When a gimp is murdered, Frost discovers a sad and seedy world inhabited by lonely women who availed themselves of the deceased's services (T) (Followed by Lottery Result (4895))
- 10.00 News (T) and weather (50586)
- 10.30 Regional News (T) (572673)



Brenda Gilchrist as Gayle (10.40pm)

CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (4563586)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8456760)
- 6.25-7.00 Central News (T) (28983)
- 11.40 Swift Justice (515418)
- 12.40am Dating the Enemy (6702258)
- 1.40 Bonkers (2126890)
- 2.40 The Chart Show (6020797)
- 3.30 Comedy Central (24600)
- 4.30 Central Jobfinder (97) (8858161)
- 5.20 Asian Eye (4269529)

#### WESTCOUNTRY

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55 Home and Away (5775383)
- 1.20-1.50 Emmerdale (2302470)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8456760)
- 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (94418)
- 11.40 Swift Justice (686654)

#### MERIDIAN

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (4563586)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8456760)
- 6.00 Meridian Tonight (925)
- 6.30-7.00 Spirit of the South: Waterlines (505)
- 11.10 Truly, Madly, Weedly (937586)
- 11.40 The Bottom Line (90892)
- 12.10am Campus Cops (3225987)
- 5.00 Freescreen (51708)

#### ANGlia

- As HTV West except:
- 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (4563586)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8456760)
- 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (128563)
- 11.40 Weekly World News (900692)
- 12.10 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (3225987)

#### S4C

- Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (26789)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (21147)
- 9.00 Bewitched (60963)
- 9.30 Ysgolion (512963)
- 12.00 House to House (57499)
- 12.30pm Ridi Lake (77741)
- 1.00 Slot Motifin (10267031)
- 1.15 Elisabeth (10262586)
- 1.30 Film: Spring in Park Lane (5852226)
- 3.10 The Dingles (3733050)
- 3.15 The Hoarder (1951741)
- 3.20 Collectors' Lot (388)
- 4.00 Fifteen-to-one (418)
- 4.30 Dosh (302)
- 5.00 Pump (3486876)
- 5.15 Flell (571708)
- 5.30 Countdown (654)
- 6.00 Newyddion (267505)
- 6.05 Heno (631654)
- 6.35 Sian a Sian (746147)
- 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (941925)
- 7.25 garej (22320)
- 8.00 Difm Gyda: Llun Williams (5988)
- 8.30 Newyddion (2683)
- 9.00 Spin City (1215)
- 9.30 Roseanne (57057)
- 10.00 Brookside (497128)
- 10.35 ER (867050)
- 11.30 Cybill (74741)
- 12.00 Under the Moon (6492884)

#### CARTOON NETWORK

- Non-stop cartoons from 5.00am to 8.00pm include Tom and Jerry and The Flintstones.

#### NICKELDEON

- 6.00am Count Duckula (30416) 6.30 Rocko's Modern Life (56914) 7.30 Arnold (57656) 8.00 Doug (80325) 7.30 Arthur (56545) 9.00 Richard Scarry (84673)
- 10.00-11.00 The Fairly OddParents (520712) 11.00 Balman (12764) 12.30 Dangermouse (7128)
- 2.00 Creepy Crawlers (6128) 2.30 Flash Gordon (4059) 3.00 Sonja (5983) 3.30 Earthworm Jim (6895) 4.00 The Tick (5108) 4.30-5.00 Artie (5821)
- 5.00-5.30 The Powerpuff Girls (58214)
- 6.00-6.30 Rugrats (58215)
- 7.00-7.30 The Fairly OddParents (520712) 7.30 The Powerpuff Girls (58214)
- 8.00-8.30 The Fairly OddParents (520712) 8.30 The Powerpuff Girls (58214)
- 9.00-9.30 The Fairly OddParents (520712) 9.30 The Powerpuff Girls (58214)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00am Sesame Street (T) (26789) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (21147) 9.00 Bewitched (T) (60963)
- 9.30 Schoolgirl Geography Junction 9.45 Book Box 10.00 Stage Two Science 10.15 TV Friend or Fox 10.45 GNOV — Is It For You? 11.07 Lost Animals 11.15 The Mix 11.30 Rala-Tal-Tal 11.45 Backtracks (5126263)
- 12.00 House to Houses (57499)

**RACING 42**

Bosra Sham wins  
in regal fashion  
at Royal Ascot

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

Stimpson and Back likely to miss out on selection for international duty

## Lions hopefults fail to convince

**Emerging Springboks.. 22**  
**British Isles XV ..... 51**

FROM DAVID HANDE  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT  
IN WELLINGTON

THE British Isles, four days away from the first international of their series with South Africa, achieved everything that they could have hoped for at the Boland Stadium yesterday: a heartening half-century of points, no disruptive injuries and the occasional abrupt reminder of the hardness and speed of thought that must be confronted in this country.

Yet, for all the strong finish, the 26 points scored by Tim Stimpson and Nick Beal's three tries, the match did not add to the selectors' worries when they sat down last night to contemplate their XV for the international. No player made an unanswerable case for playing at Newlands on Saturday, and Neil Back, the individual with the strongest claim, will probably still be edged out by Richard Hill.

Back's intelligence and skill suit the style that Ian McGeechan, the Lions coach, is trying to foster and Back, the Leicester flanker, revelled in the second half as the Lions took a grip of a match that at one stage looked as though it might drift away from them. In particular, Back linked well with Allan Bateman and Will Greenwood in the centre.

Both are worthy of international selection themselves, but will probably be kept out by Jeremy Guscott and Scott Gibbs. The selectors' deliberations may be made known on Friday, but they will wish that Stimpson had made a greater claim to the full back role. His points-scoring ability is not in doubt, but in general play he still creates enough uncertainty — particularly when dealing with the bouncing ball, locating support and making decisions in midfield — to leave Neil Jenkins more or less certain to play against South Africa.

The quality of the opposition yesterday must be considered, too. No player who had toured in a senior South Africa party was considered, which meant that Nick Mallett, the coach,



Bateman, left, fends off the challenge of Smit as the Lions surge forward in the Boland Stadium yesterday. Photograph: David Rogers/Allsport

was unable to choose some 35 to 40 high-quality players.

During the second quarter, they caused the Lions a variety of problems at set pieces and with their pace on the break.

At that stage, the Lions were

happy to have scored 16 early points, thanks to Stimpson's kicking and a try by Rowntree, the prop, on the left wing that featured Redman, the lock, as acting scrum half and Regan, the hooker, delivering the scoring pass. Such interplay reflects McGeechan's philosophy.

Nevertheless, Brosnihan drove over from a tapped

penalty and, after Stimpson's third penalty goal, Smith replied in kind. Had he converted Goosen's try, the Emerging Springboks would have turned round a point in front rather than trailing 16-15.

The interval allowed the Lions to reaffirm their commitment to a wide game and impose their fluid structure on a side constantly disrupted by replacements. Bentley, who was yesterday added to the England squad for the one-off international against Australia next month, was the architect of the resurgence.

He ran back a drop-out and

carried more than 50 metres before handing Beal the simplest of tries.

Beal's second followed swiftly and, though Treu chased through a grub-kick to give the Emerging Springboks a brief flicker of hope, the Lions tightened the screw. The strength of their final-quarter play has become one of their best features and yesterday was no exception, with three tries coming in the final 13 minutes.

Davison, their most reliable lineout banger, began a well-sustained movement that ended when Catt's pass re-

leased Stimpson, and Catt then gave Beal the chance to loop round Diprose and score his third try. Not to be outdone, Catt ran through imperiously from a tapped penalty, Stimpson's kick taking the score past 50 in the final moments.

SCORING: Emerging Springboks: Tries: Bronkhorst, Goosen, Treu, Converas; Smith, Goosen, Treu, Converas, Smit. British Isles: Try: Treu; B. Beal (2); Rowntree, Smit. Converas: Tries: Bronkhorst, Smit. Penalties: Smit. (3).

EMERGING SPRINGBOKS: M Smith (Free State); D Kotze (Eastern Province); M Steyn (Free State); M Botha (Western Province); M Hendricks (Boland); P Treu (South-West Districts); L van Rensburg (Gauteng); J Allard (North-West); J Kempster (KwaZulu-Natal); S Smit (Free State); N Botha (Boland); captain: M du Toit (Boland). W Broerse (Gauteng).

Referee: I Rogers (Natal).

Opponents (Free State): B Eis (Free State); P Smit (Grootfontein West); J Coetzer (Free State); Adam replaced by K Myburgh (Grootfontein West, 11 mins); Van Rensburg replaced by J Botha (Free State); Smit replaced by K Malan (Free State); B Kempster replaced by J Campher (Northem Transvaal); S Antonius replaced by J Botha (Free State); captain: R Broerse (Grootfontein West); A Diprose (Seacoe and Engeland); P Botha (Boland) replaced by J Arndt (West African Province).

BRITISH ISLES: XV: T Stimpson (Newcastle and England); J Bentley (Newcastle and England); A Ballen (Newcastle and England); M Botha (Boland); N Botha (Northerton and England); M Catt (Bath and England); A Healy (Leicester and England); J Lewis (Bristol and England); J London (Harrowgate/Walsall/Marylebone and Scotland); N Redman (Bath and England); J Rowlands (Cardiff and Wales); N Smit (Lancaster and England); A Diprose (Seacoe and Engeland).

Referee: I Rogers (Natal).

England  
retain  
spinning  
option

BY ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND pulled back last night from the unusual step of naming their final XI 36 hours before the Lord's Test against Australia. Instead, they trimmed their party by only one, retaining the option of including Philip Tufnell as a second spin bowler.

Adam Hollioake narrowly discarded on the first morning of the Edgbaston Test was this time released in time to rejoin his county and will captain Surrey at Worcester today. The prospects of Tufnell playing, however, increased during a dry day.

Mick Hunt, the groundsman, admits that he was concerned at the beginning of the week about the amount of moisture remaining in the Test pitch. By yesterday, he reported himself satisfied. "This has been a bonus day," he said. "The tests I have taken on the pitch show it has dried out well."

The England selectors were undoubtedly influenced by the appearance of cracks in the surface two days before the game. David Graveney, the chairman, said: "It looks a normal Lord's wicket, but we need to keep our bowlers options open right up to Thursday morning. We want players on the fringes to get in as much cricket as possible, but not at the expense of team planning."

Australia confirmed yesterday that Paul Reiffel, who arrived to join the tour only a week ago, will be rushed into their team at Lord's, replacing the injured Jason Gillespie. Reiffel, whose omission was a glaring error in the original selection, will be the one change. Greg Blewett continuing at No 3 despite the discomfort from tendon damage in his knee.

Steve McManaman, the Liverpool midfield player, fears that the injury that precluded him from England duty this summer will restrict his opportunity at the start of the season. McManaman is struggling with the knee problem that has plagued him for some months and may require further corrective surgery.

Brighton and Hove Albion announced yesterday that they have lodged a formal request with the Football League to ground-share with Millwall next season. The club has agreed a deal after failing to find a suitable arrangement with Gillingham, Portsmouth and Fulham.

Everton are close to reaching an agreement with Andy Gray and Howard Kendall. Kendall, a former manager at Goodison Park, will assume the role of general manager with Gray accepting day-to-day responsibility for team matters. A deal should be completed this week.

Overmars  
rewards  
Arsenal's  
patience

BY DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS the season for transfer sagas. Arsenal completed what was ultimately a mammoth quest for Marc Overmars, the Holland international, yesterday, when they signed him for £7 million.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, first pursued his interest before the end of the season. After more turns than the Le Mans race, he finally got his man on a five-year contract that could be worth as much as £14 million to Overmars. Overmars has recovered from a leg injury that has blighted his career over the past year and Wenger believes that he has got a bargain; even at the eye-watering asking price that Ajax, his club, maintained throughout negotiations.

"He is a class player and that is why you have to pay such an inflated fee," Wenger said. "Marc has his best four or five years ahead of him and already he knows all about playing at the very top level with Ajax. I want players who are used to winning things, who are used to the pressures of playing for big club and everything that goes with it. He fits that criteria perfectly."

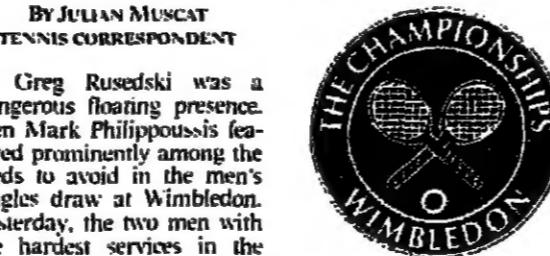
Overmars was not the only arrival at Highbury yesterday, as Wenger also unveiled Luis Boamorte, 20, a forward, Arsenal paid Sporting Lisbon £1.7 million for Boamorte, who has already graced the Portugal Under-21 team.

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## Philippoussis poses awkward early question for Rusedski



BY JULIAN MUSCAT  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

If Greg Rusedski was a dangerous floating presence, then Mark Philippoussis featured prominently among the seeds to avoid in the men's singles draw at Wimbledon. Yesterday, the two men with the hardest services in the game were thrown together in a first-round contest of combustible proportions.

Equally intriguing was the alignment of Todd Woodbridge with Michael Chang, Jim Courier with Michael Stich, and Andre Agassi with Carlos Moya; but Tim Henman, seeded No 14, has avoided the flotsam. He opens with a match against Daniel Nestor, of Canada, ranked No 104 in the world. Indeed, Henman will not encounter anyone in the world's top fifty until his projected encounter with Richard Krajicek, the defending champion, in the fourth round.

Philippoussis, of Australia, sent down 91 aces in five matches last week as he swept to the Stella Artois title at Queen's Club — where

Henman's section of the draw offers him an excellent opportunity to make an impact at these championships. A quarter-finalist 12 months ago, Henman's fragile confidence should be fortified by his good fortune. By contrast, Rusedski has recently displayed some of the best form of his life. He will certainly need it against Philippoussis, who boasts the fastest service on record.

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Rusedski was inched out in the semi-final by Goran Ivanisevic. Although the two have never previously met, a measure of Rusedski's task is that Philippoussis, seeded No 7, was elevated to that status, ahead of his world ranking, by the seeding committee on Monday. The contest was appraised with masterful understatement by Alan Mills, the tournament referee, who observed of the match: "It looks like one for Court No 17."

Rusedski anticipates the showdown in a positive light. "It could have been easier, but it is tough for him as well," he said. "If you are going to have to play a guy like that on grass, it is probably better to play on the first day, when the grass is lusher." Should he upset one of the pre-tournament favourites, Rusedski will gain added impetus from supplanting Philippoussis in the latter's protected passage through the early rounds.

Pete Sampras, the No 1 seed, faces a stern examination from Mikael Tillstrom, ranked No 54 in the world and conqueror of Stefan Edberg in the championships last year. Sampras's projected opponent in the quarter-final is Boris Becker, each a three-time winner of the event. Elsewhere, Courier and Stich — the latter the champion six years ago and playing his last Wimbledon — are dangerous floaters who must face each other. Both will relish a projected second-round tussle with Gustavo Kuerten, the French Open winner and seeded No 11.

Thomas Muster, yet to progress beyond the opening round after four Wimbledon campaigns, will not relish his match with Chris Wilkins, the British No 4 who has won matches on each of his past five visits. Wilkins said of meeting Muster, seeded No 6 but ranked No 4 in the world: "It is a great opportunity. Muster is a fine competitor and I just hope I meet him in one of his sulky moods."

In the women's event, Martina Hingis, the No 1 seed, faces a qualifier while Monica Seles, seeded No 2, has a routine assignment against Rachel McQuillan, of Australia. The scope for an early upset lies elsewhere in the draw. Mary Pierce, seeded No 9, could be vulnerable against Dominique van Roost, of Belgium.

Anna Kournikova, the teenage sensation from Russia, faces a testing Wimbledon debut against Chanda Rubin, of the United States, who, 12 months ago, reached No 6 in the world before a hand injury halted her progress. Domestic interest in the opening round will focus on Clare Wood's efforts to usurp Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the No 8 seed and a losing finalist at Wimbledon for the past two years.

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**SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1122**  
ACROSS: 1 Plumber's ringlet (6); 5 Little case on neck-chain (6); 8 High (meat) (4); 9 (Sc) smallholders (8); 10 Mass-for-one's soul-chapel (7); 11 Agitate (esp. milk) (5); 16 Stained, tarnished (11); 16 Kills (fly) (5); 18 Busy (2,3,2); 21 Hint close (8); 22 Fruit appointment (4); 23 Andy - US pop artist (6); 24 Plural of Mr (6);  
DOWN: 1 Pretext; 2 Dissuade; 6 Cruse; 8 Mozart; 9 Stiffen; 10 Usher; 12 Exhortant; 16 Get the bird; 18 Haven; 20 Crooked; 21 Cousin; 22 Senate; 23 Satanism; 5 Entire; 6 Mattock; 7 Tone; 11 Trinkard; 13 Applaud; 15 Audible; 16 Marrow; 18 Caper; 19 Phase; 20 Twit; 21 Writer; 22 Blunt; 23 Tudor; 24 Weekend; 25 Louis; 26 Madrigal; 27 Rebut; 3 Hogarth; 4 Rugged; 5 Louis; 6 Mattock; 7 Tone; 11 Trinkard; 13 Applaud; 15 Audible; 16 Marrow; 18 Caper; 19 Phase; 20 Twit; 21 Writer; 22 Blunt; 23 Tudor; 24 Weekend; 25 Louis; 26 Madrigal; 27 Rebut; 3 Hogarth; 4 Rugged; 5 Louis; 6 Mattock; 7 Tone; 11 Trinkard; 13 Applaud; 15 Audible; 16 Marrow; 18 Caper; 19 Phase; 20 Twit; 21 Writer; 22 Blunt; 23 Tudor; 24 Weekend; 25 Louis; 26 Madrigal; 27 Rebut; 3 Hogarth; 4 Rugged; 5 Louis; 6 Mattock; 7 Tone; 11 Trinkard; 13 Applaud; 15 Audible; 16 Marrow; 18 Caper; 19 Phase; 20 Twit; 21 Writer; 22 Blunt; 23 Tudor; 24 Weekend; 25 Louis; 26 Madrigal; 27 Rebut; 3 Hogarth; 4 Rugged; 5 Louis; 6 Mattock; 7 Tone; 11 Trinkard